

SWIM SUITS 2019

Swimsuits

SUMMER 2019
DOUBLE ISSUE
SI.COM/SWIMSUIT

Plus

ALEX
MORGAN
And Teammates
**TAKE ON
THE WORLD**

CAMILLE
KOSTEK
**A STAR
IS BORN**

Tyra

BANKS

FROM
MODEL TO
MOGUL

Photograph by
LARETTA HOUSTON
Shot in the Bahamas

SWIMSuits

2019

Unleashed

SUMMER 2019
DOUBLE ISSUE
SI.COM/SWIMSUIT

Alex
MORGAN

TAKES
ON THE
WORLD

Photograph by
BEN WATTS
Shot in St. Lucia

Plus

TYRA'S
BACK
MODEL MOGUL

CAMILLE
KOSTEK
A STAR IS BORN

SWIMSUIT 2019

SUMMER 2019
DOUBLE ISSUE
SI.COM/SWIMSUIT

Plus

TYRA'S
BACK
MODEL MOGUL

ALEX
MORGAN
And Teammates
**TAKE ON
THE WORLD**

A
STAR
IS
BORN

Camille
KOSTEK

Photograph by
JOSIE CLOUGH
Shot on Kangaroo Island

CACIQUE

Exclusively at LANE BRYANT

SHOP THIS SEASON'S
HOTTEST SWIM AT CACIQUE.COM

Swim & Panties in sizes 0-28
Bras in Bands 32-50 & Cups A-K





Tara Lynn
gets our 2019
Rookie vote!



@caciqueintimates
@lanebryant

— ESTD 1846 —

Dewar's®

DOUBLE AGED

• FOR EXTRA •
SMOOTHNESS



WE AGE



WE BLEND



WE AGE AGAIN



LIVE TRUE

ENJOY RESPONSIBLY.

©2019. DEWAR'S BLENDED SCOTCH WHISKY 40% ALC. BY VOL. IMPORTED BY JOHN DEWAR & SONS COMPANY, CORAL GABLES, FL.

SWIM

May 13, 2019
**DOUBLE
ISSUE**
VOLUME 130
NOS. 11/12

THIS PAGE

Samantha Hoopes

Photograph by
JOSIE CLOUGH

Swimsuit by
**MONICA HANSEN
BEACHWEAR**
(\$158)

Hair by
MICHAEL BRENNAN
for **THE ARTIST GROUP**
using **ORIBE**

Makeup by
PETER BEARD
for **THE ARTIST
GROUP SYDNEY**
using **CHARLOTTE
TILBURY**

ON THE COVER

Tyra Banks

Photograph by
LARETTA HOUSTON

Swimsuit by
ANDI BAGUS
(\$55)

Hair by
KIM KIMBLE
at **SIX K ARTISTS**
assisted by
CHRIS GEES

Makeup by
VALENTÉ FRAZIER
at **FIRE HOUSE
MANAGEMENT**

Camille Kostek

Photograph by
JOSIE CLOUGH

Swimsuit by
MESHKI
(\$60)

Hair by
MICHAEL BRENNAN
for **THE ARTIST
GROUP**
using **ORIBE**

Makeup by
PETER BEARD
for **THE ARTIST
GROUP SYDNEY**
using **CHARLOTTE
TILBURY**

Alex Morgan

Photograph by
BEN WATTS

Swimsuit by
FAE
(\$128)

Hair by
**ANTHONY
CRISTIANO**
for **ANTHONY
CRISTIANO
CHICAGO**

Makeup by
**CHRISTINE
CHERBONNIER**
at **THE WALL
GROUP**
for **MILK
MAKEUP**
using **HYDRO
GRIP PRIMER**



Cover
Lettering by
**RYAN
HAMRICK**

— ESTD 1846 —

Dewar's®

AGED 15 YEARS

DOUBLE AGED

• FOR EXTRA •
SMOOTHNESS



90
POINTS

Whisky
ADVOCATE

“Divine stone fruit aromas.”

Jonny McCormick

93
POINTS



WHISKYCAST

“Excellent! Reminder of just
how complex and well-rounded
a good blend can be.”

Mark Gillespie

92
POINTS



“Excellent. Highly recommended.”

ENJOY RESPONSIBLY.

©2019. DEWAR'S BLENDED SCOTCH WHISKY 40% ALC. BY VOL. IMPORTED BY JOHN DEWAR & SONS COMPANY, CORAL GABLES, FL.



Danielle Herrington

Swimsuit by
BEIJOBABY
(\$350)

Hair by
ERIC GABRIEL
at **THE WALL GROUP**

Makeup by
CYNTHIA SOBEK
at **ART DEPARTMENT**
using **MAKE UP FOR EVER**
and **PHOTOSKIN**

11

ROOKIES

Meet the Great Eight—our most diverse first-year class ever

Featuring

Camille Kostek, Jasmine Sanders,
Halima Aden, Tara Lynn,
Haley Kalil, Olivia Brower,
Winnie Harlow and Kelsey Merritt

22

TYRA BANKS

She's completed the transition from model to mogul (and college instructor). Now BanX is back

BY JEANNINE AMBER

Photographs by
Laretta Houston

32

KANGAROO ISLAND

A home-grown photographer jumped at the chance to shoot in South Australia

Featuring

Samantha Hoopes, Myla Dalbesio,
Hailey Clauson, Olivia Culpo,
Camille Kostek and Tara Lynn

Photographs by
Josie Clough

60

STRONG SUIT

These three athletes work tirelessly to stay on top. And it shows

Featuring

Simone Biles, Lindsey Vonn
and Paige VanZant

Photographs by
Walter Chin

74

KENYA

This African jewel provided stunning settings—and for one model, a homecoming

Featuring

Robin Holzken,
Halima Aden,
Anne de Paula,
Paulina Porizkova
and Haley Kalil

Photographs by
Yu Tsai

INTRODUCING

— ESTD 1846 —

Dewar's®

DOUBLE DOUBLE SERIES



4 STAGE AGEING PROCESS FOR ULTIMATE SMOOTHNESS

ENJOY RESPONSIBLY.

©2019. DEWAR'S BLENDED SCOTCH WHISKY 40% ALC. BY VOL. IMPORTED BY JOHN DEWAR & SONS COMPANY, CORAL GABLES, FL.

100 SQUAD GOALS

As the World Cup looms, these four stars are showing they're as fierce off the field as on it

Featuring
Alex Morgan,
Megan Rapinoe,
Crystal Dunn and
Abby Dahlkemper
Photographs by
Ben Watts

116 MODEL SEARCH

Use your 2020 vision. Which finalist will appear in next year's Swimsuit Issue?

Featuring
Brooks Nader, Jessica
Aidi, Raine Michaels,
Veronica Pome'e, Manuela
Alvarez Hernandez and
Erin Willerton
Photographs by
Yu Tsai

128 COSTA RICA

You never know what you'll see in this Central American paradise

Featuring
Danielle Herrington, Lais
Ribeiro, Barbara Palvin,
Jasmine Sanders, Hunter
McGrady and Kate Bock
Photographs by
James Macari

152 GREAT EXUMA

With a trailblazer behind the camera, the results were out of this world

Featuring
Winnie Harlow, Kelsey
Merritt and Olivia Brower
Photographs by
Laretta Houston

166 LAST WORD

Instead of slowing down with age, this icon is showing that all women can dazzle

BY PAULINA PORIZKOVA

Megan Rapinoe

Swimsuit by
MINIMALE ANIMALE
(\$195)

Hair by
ANTHONY CRISTIANO
for **ANTHONY
CRISTIANO CHICAGO**

Makeup by
**CHRISTINE
CHERBONNIER**
at **THE WALL GROUP**
for **MILK MAKEUP**
using **HYDRO
GRIP PRIMER**

nature ran her course

Swimsuit Editor
MJ DAY
Creative Director
STEPHEN SKALOCKY

Senior Editor
DARCIE BURROUGHS
Assistant Editor
JANINE BEREY
Associate Producer
ALYSSA CONROY
Editorial Coordinator
JOANNA GIUNTA
Social and Digital Manager
KELSEY HENDRIX
Editorial Intern
MARGOT ZAMET

Editor in Chief
CHRISTIAN STONE
Digital Editor
MARK MCCLUSKY



EDITOR'S LETTER

FRESH LOOKS

There's beauty in diversity, in inspiration—and in rethinking all you thought you knew about the Swimsuit Issue

BY MJ DAY

WE ALL NEED a little inspiration now and then, so here's a quote for your refrigerator or the front of a T-shirt or your Pinterest board: "Do what you know, and perception is converted into character." In other words: Be true to who you are, and your understanding of the world—and the world's understanding of you—will coalesce around your best self.

Of course, to make that happen you're going to have to shatter a few perceptions along the way. So let's get real about exactly what the Swimsuit Issue is and what it represents. Sure, it was born as a midwinter diversion for a mostly male sports magazine audience—but throughout its 55-year history SI Swimsuit has been conceived, planned and produced by an editorial staff comprised almost entirely of women. Two of our three covers this year were shot by females. Josie Clough, who was four months pregnant when she photographed Camille Kostek

on Kangaroo Island, in South Australia, last October, has had her work in the issue three straight years now.

Laretta Houston, meanwhile, is new to the Swimsuit family. Tyra Banks recommended her to shoot Tyra's third SI cover—though Houston didn't know it at the time. "There are so very few women of color behind the camera," Tyra said to me in January. "Let's find a talented person and change her life!" So we invited Houston to the Bahamas to shoot 2019 rookies Olivia Brower, Winnie Harlow and Kelsey Merritt. Once she got there, we surprised her with the news that she'd also be shooting a modeling legend for the cover.

Tyra's choice was driven by a spirit of empowerment and inclusion—something those who still think of SI Swimsuit as a monument to supermodel-y sameness and perfection should keep in mind. With the 34 exceptional women in this issue we're celebrating beauty in all its forms. Pretty faces? Yes—but also so much more. Mothers. Athletes. Businesswomen. Women of color. Women of different shapes and sizes. Women from all walks of life. What connects them? A determination to own who they are and demonstrate how limitless we can all be.

So: Do you feel confident and strong in a string bikini? Go for it. Do you feel that way in a burkini and a hijab? Halima Aden does, and this year she's the first woman to wear them in the Swimsuit Issue. Does a swimsuit still make you feel gorgeous 36 years after your first SI appearance? Paulina Porizkova says yes, and in addition to her photos this issue includes her fierce back-page essay in which she addresses ageism head-on.

Halima
Aden

Photograph by

YU TSAI

Burkini by

CYNTHIA ROWLEY

(\$295)



To purchase any of this year's covers,
go to backissues.si.com

The conversation shouldn't stop at body diversity or how a woman should look or dress to be worthy of media celebration. SI Swimsuit wants the focus to be on women's actions as much as their appearance. Alex Morgan is on one of our covers—she and U.S. national soccer teammates Megan Rapinoe and Crystal Dunn and Abby Dahlkemper joined us for a shoot in St. Lucia, right after the barrier-breaking announcement that national team players were suing the U.S. Soccer Federation for gender discrimination and equal pay. And

Kostek's cover, a year after we discovered her in our annual Model Search casting, marks the launch of a modeling career swimming in potential. (Even as her star rises, the search is on for the next breakout. Model Search 2020 launches this July in Miami.)

Speaking of potential—both fulfilled and limitless—let's talk about Tyra. In 1996 she became the first woman of color on the Swimsuit Issue cover; in the years since she's transformed herself into nothing less than a mogul, a cultural force and a supernova of inspiration and empowerment. You can read more about her starting on page 22; she's kind of the Swimsuit Issue ethos come to life, everything we know this franchise can be. We hope you read the issue cover to cover, and that after you've also visited SI.com/swimsuit and explored the additional images, videos and stories there, you think about the women, SI Swimsuit and yourself in a new light.

Oh, and that quotation we started with? It's from Ralph Waldo Emerson. He may have owned a famous path of forest in Massachusetts, but you probably didn't see his connection coming to a franchise thought to be about sun, sand and sex appeal. Boom. Perception, shattered. □

The conversation shouldn't stop at body
diversity or how a woman should look or dress.
SI Swimsuit wants the focus to
be on action as much as appearance.

Sports Illustrated

CLASSIC SWIMSUIT COVERS COLLECTION

PHOTO-QUALITY REPRODUCTIONS

DECADES OF ICONIC SWIMSUIT COVERS

AVAILABLE UNFRAMED OR IN CUSTOM SINGLE OR DOUBLE FRAMES



OWN A PIECE OF SWIM HISTORY

EXCLUSIVELY AT SICOVERS.COM

© 2019 TI Gotham Inc. SPORTS ILLUSTRATED is a registered trademark of TI Gotham Inc., a subsidiary of Meredith Corporation, registered in the U.S. and other countries.

A lifelong competitive dancer, Kostek—who is from Killingworth, Conn.—is a former New England Patriots cheerleader.

Photograph by
JOSIE CLOUGH

Swimsuit by
MESHKI
(\$62)

Hair by
MICHAEL BRENNAN
for **THE ARTIST GROUP**
using **ORIBE**

Makeup by
PETER BEARD
for **THE ARTIST GROUP**
SYDNEY
using **CHARLOTTE TILBURY**

“
My backyard was the place to be. We played kickball, Wiffle ball, badminton. There were always 20 kids coming over. I loved backyard sports. Still do.
”

3
kostek
B
i
D

ROOKIES

CLASS
OF
2019

“

I'm a big dog person. I grew up with them, and now I have a mutt and two French bulldogs. Dogs are great—they are good for cuddling and being active with.

”

Wendie Sanders

The German-born Sanders is nicknamed Golden Barbie because her friends said she looked like a Barbie doll and a grade school teacher called her Goldilocks.

Photograph by
JAMES MACARI

Swimsuit by
BEACH BUNNY
(\$189)

Hair by
ERIC GABRIEL
at **THE WALL GROUP**

Makeup by
CYNTHIA SOBEK
at **ART DEPARTMENT**
using **MAKE UP FOR EVER** and
PHOTO SKIN

Don't just tea.

TEAVANA^{TM/MC}



Experience the vibrant flavors in
Pineapple Berry Blue Herbal Tea, with tropical
citrus notes, hibiscus and green rooibos.

— CRAFT ICED TEA —

amirah aden

Halima, whose mother fled Somalia during the civil war, was born in a U.N. refugee camp in Kenya before her family relocated to the U.S.

Photograph by
YU TSAI

Burkini by
MAYOVERA
(\$80)

Hair by
JOHN RUGGIERO
at **THE WALL GROUP**
using **BUMBLE & BUMBLE**

Makeup by
TRACY MURPHY
at **STATEMENT ARTISTS**
using **ST. TROPEZ TAN PRODUCTS**

“
People ask me if I was nervous about wearing a hijab at my first pageant. I was more nervous about telling my mother! It was a scary thing—she didn’t know a lot about pageants. I just kept thinking, How am I going to tell my Mom?
”

EVERY HERO SWEATS.

(SOME JUST NEVER SHOW IT)



GILLETTE DEODORANT

48 HOUR PROTECTION

Tara Lynn

Tara was a junior at the University of Washington when she walked into a local modeling agency, she says, “to prove to myself it was O.K. to fail.” She was signed on the spot.

Photograph by
JOSIE CLOUGH

Swimsuit by
TARA LYNN SWIM
(\$100)

Hair by
MICHAEL BRENNAN
for **THE ARTIST GROUP**
using **ORIBE**

Makeup by
PETER BEARD
for **THE ARTIST GROUP SYDNEY**
using **CHARLOTTE TILBURY**



“
Mom guilt is real. I have two kids (1½ and 2½), and I knew I wanted to go back to work. I needed it for my own sanity. But the first time I did I cried and cried. But I’m glad that I did. I come back from jobs a better, more patient parent.
”

A native of Excelsior, Minn., Haley grew up in a family of mechanical engineers. She is an aspiring reconstructive surgeon with degrees in biomedical sciences and psychology from St. Cloud State.

Photograph by
YU TSAI

Swimsuit by
DOLCESSA
(\$180)

Hair by
JOHN RUGGIERO
at **THE WALL GROUP**
using **BUMBLE**
& **BUMBLE**

Makeup by
TRACY MURPHY
at **STATEMENT ARTISTS**
using **ST. TROPEZ**
TAN PRODUCTS

“

When I met my husband [offensive lineman Matt Kalil, formerly of the Vikings] I had no idea who he was. My Dad bleeds purple. When Matt picked me up for a first date, my Dad pulled out his Wikipedia page and told me, ‘This date better go well.’

”

haley
kalil

“

I geek out on anything mythical. I've bought cloaks to dress like Harry Potter. I rewind and dissect scenes from Game of Thrones. If I could meet anyone, I'd want to meet J.K. Rowling.

”

Olivia Brower

The 22-year-old, San Diego-born Brower has lived all over the world, including Japan, Italy, the U.K. and Australia.

Photograph by
LARETTA HOUSTON

Swimsuit by
BEACH BUNNY
(\$315)

Hair by
KIM KIMBLE
at **SIX K ARTISTS**
assisted by
CHRIS GEES

Makeup by
VALENTÉ FRAZIER
at **FIRE HOUSE**
MANAGEMENT



“

*I love traveling,
but I hate flying.
I'm terrified of
plane crashes.
I have a fear
of drowning
too. So when I
travel overseas,
it combines my
two biggest
fears.*

”

Winnie
harlow

Winnie, from Toronto, was diagnosed with vitiligo, a condition that causes patches of skin to lose pigmentation, when she was four. She was discovered at Fashion Art Toronto, the city's annual art, film and fashion week.

Photograph by
LARETTA HOUSTON

Swimsuit by
IZTALI SWIM
(\$118)

Hair by
KIM KIMBLE
at **SIX K ARTISTS**
assisted by
CHRIS GEES

Makeup by
VALENTÉ FRAZIER
at **FIRE HOUSE
MANAGEMENT**



K D S D K

merritt

“
Growing up, I wanted to be a teacher. I went to a science high school. The course load was brutal—chemistry, advanced physics, microbiology. It was 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., every day.
”

Born in Pampanga, Philippines, Merritt used the money she made modeling to pay for her college tuition. She is currently helping her sister pay for medical school.

Photograph by
LARETTA HOUSTON

Swimsuit by
THALASSA SWIM
(\$50)

Top by
GRACE BIJOUX
(\$110)

Hair by
KIM KIMBLE
at **SIX K ARTISTS**
assisted by
CHRIS GEES

Makeup by
VALENTÉ FRAZIER
at **FIRE HOUSE**
MANAGEMENT



RUM CHATA®

— — — — —
HORCHATA CON RON

Caribbean Rum With
Real Dairy Cream,
Natural & Artificial Flavors.

13.75% Alc / Vol
750ml

GREAT EXUMA,
BAHAMAS

FROM
MODEL
TO
MOGUL

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
LARETTA HOUSTON

A close-up portrait of Tyra Banks with long, wavy brown hair, wearing a brown, textured, triangle-shaped bikini top. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a bright blue sky and ocean.

Tyra Banks

Swimsuit by
MINIMALE ANIMALE
(\$100)

Earrings by
ANUJA TOLIA

Hair by
KIM KIMBLE
at **SIX K ARTISTS**
assisted by **CHRIS GEES**

Makeup by
VALENTÉ FRAZIER
at **FIRE HOUSE**
MANAGEMENT

Accommodations by
GRAND ISLE
RESORT & SPA
Promotional
consideration
provided by
THE BAHAMAS
MINISTRY OF TOURISM
AND AVIATION
Location production
by **CINDI BLAIR**
PRODUCTIONS/
TURKS & CAICOS
PRODUCTIONS

Lettering by
KYLE LETENDRE

Swimsuit by
KAOHS
(\$188)

Earrings by
**JENNIFER ZEUNER
JEWELRY**





Tyra Banks
Swimsuit by
FASHION NOVA
(\$50)

Necklace by
BIANCA PRATT JEWELRY

Swimsuit by
ZIMMERMANN
(\$320)

Earrings by
ANUJA TOLIA





View additional
**VIDEOS &
PHOTOS**
AT SI.COM/SWIMSUIT

For credits, see
WHERE TO BUY
in the back of the issue

Tyra
Banks

Swimsuit by
NORMA KAMALI
(\$115)

Necklace by
JACQUIE AICHE

BY JEANNINE AMBER

A few months before Tyra Banks was scheduled to be photographed on a sun-soaked Bahamian beach in a skimpy yellow bikini, she flirted with the idea of losing some weight. She had been photographed 23 years earlier on the same island in a different tiny bikini, and thought if she slimmed down folks would marvel, “Tyra looks the same!”

She consulted a nutritionist, cut out carbs and started drinking two liters of water a day. “I know how to control my body,” Banks says. “I can lose weight easily.”

But then she went to her mama’s house. First, Banks got into the Cheetos. (“They were so good.”) Then she started with the ice cream. Not just one flavor, either. She drove to the store and picked up eight pints of vanilla Swiss almond, butter pecan, matcha coffee and strawberry. She set them on the counter with three spoons, and Banks, her mama, and York, her three-year-old son, had themselves an ice cream party. After that, it was pretty much game over for the diet. “I had the F-its!” Banks declares. “I just didn’t care. But,” she adds, “I know the tricks. Like, the thicker you are, the smaller the swimsuit should be. It makes your curves look more luscious than stuffing yourself into giant underwear-type bottoms. So, I needed a suit that was like dental floss.”

Banks is describing the ice cream orgy and the barely-



there bikini sitting at a picnic table in a courtyard at Stanford, where she had just finished guest-lecturing the first of a series of three-hour classes on personal branding at the Graduate School of Business. “Project You: Building and Extending Your Personal Brand” is one of the most popular electives in the program.

Banks picks up her phone and scrolls through pictures from the Bahamas photo shoot. At 45, she’s decided to return to modeling. The industry typically uses “mature” models as signifiers of elegance or sophistication. Meaning they are almost always photographed fully clothed. But Banks specifically chose the Swimsuit Issue to announce she is coming out of retirement. This, she says, is where it all began.

Twenty-three years ago, Banks made history as the first African-American model to grace the cover of this publication. She was photographed, smiling brightly, with blonde-haired Valeria Mazza, on pristine sand in South Africa. The following year, Banks earned a solo cover. The now iconic image (*left*)—sun dappled, thumbs hooked mischievously in the waistband of her pink polka-dot bikini—garnered more newsstands sales than any other Swimsuit Issue in the last three decades.

“Compared to my first SI shoot,” Banks says, peering at photos on her phone, “these pictures are so much . . . saucier.” If by saucy, Banks means over-the-top sexy, then yes, the pics she’s scrolling through—in the bumblebee-yellow string bikini; topless with her hands cupping her breasts; shot from behind with her derriere rising majestically over the waterline of the aquamarine sea—are positively dripping.

“There is this stereotype that only a 20-year-old woman in a bikini is hot,”

says Banks. “Like once we reach a certain age, we are no longer desirable. But I want to show that modeling has no age. I’m coming out of retirement to practice what I preach.” That said, Banks’s comeback is also part of a bold new business plan. In a career that has seen Banks crush almost every venture she’s embarked upon—from modeling, to television, to teaching—this next move may be her biggest risk yet.

Tyra
Banks

Swimsuit by
OLA VIDA
(\$230)



IT'S 11 A.M. on the first day of class and Banks, dressed in a faded navy NFL T-shirt, sweats and sneakers, is balancing on a platform high above a redwood forest, in the Santa Cruz Mountains, about an hour from Stanford. Prompted by Brian, a zip-lining guide at Mount Hermon Adventures, Banks turns around, slides her heels over the end of edge of the platform, then leans back until she is suspended by her safety harness dangling over the 100-foot drop. Banks insists that “the lean back,” a trust exercise, is less scary if you close your eyes. But she keeps hers wide open. She’s going all-in on this insanity during the two-hour zip-lining sesh she’s booked this morning. Apparently, this is how Banks wants to start her day. “I thought I could get my blood going,” she says. Never mind that most people just drink coffee.

Zip-lining leaves Banks with a wicked case of helmet head. But she’s planned for this, too. In the rest room, she slips out of her sweats and into teaching clothes—dark jeans and patent leather heels—and tops off her outfit with a jaunty yellow beret to hide the indentation across her forehead. Then she books it to class with only moments to spare.

“Maybe unconsciously I was trying to put myself in my students’ shoes,” she says of the zip-lining expedition. “Some of them are reserved, and the stuff we ask them to do in class can be very uncomfortable.” Her 25 graduate students include physicians, entrepreneurs and tech wizards—“literal geniuses,” Banks calls them. “Some

Banks has an impressive list of accomplishments. She’s founder and CEO of Bankable Productions, a television and film production company, and she heads Tyra Beauty, a cosmetic line. Banks also founded TZONE, a nonprofit aimed at empowering girls and women, and has authored three books, including the young adult best-seller *Model-land*. One estimate puts her net worth at \$90 million. It might be tempting to dismiss these achievements as the spillover gains of hitting the genetic jackpot. But if success were that easy, every supermodel would be a mogul. In reality, Banks’s ascent is the result of a series of carefully planned moves in which the star leveraged her notoriety in one sphere to enter another.

There’s an anecdote Banks likes to share. Think of it as her personal-branding origin story. At 19, she was two



“I am telling people that beauty comes in all shapes, sizes and ages” Banks says of her return. “I have to put my money where my mouth is.”

of them are already changing the world, but they’re so modest.” To apply for the class, students submit a short video describing their personal brand. Banks, who has been guest-lecturing at Stanford for three years, recalls one student: “In his video he said, ‘I’ve done some cool things. But I really don’t know what my brand is.’ It turns out he invented a type of heart valve that has saved thousands of people! I’m teaching students, ‘If you don’t say it, nobody will.’” Personal branding is considered an essential business skill. And Banks dominates this game.

“Tyra is an expert at this,” says Allison Kluger, a management lecturer at the grad school, who co-teaches with Banks. Kluger proposed the idea for the class to Banks after hearing her give a speech at the university. “She was talking about pivoting her personal brand,” says Kluger. “She had all these amazing lessons about how to cold-call people and pitch ideas. She’s seriously a marketing genius.”

years into a successful career as a high-fashion model when her agent in Milan informed her that she was getting too curvy. Several top designers no longer wanted Banks to walk in their shows. Banks’s mother, Carolyn London, took her out for pizza and to devise a plan. Her mother told Tyra to write down the names of companies that liked curves, or as she put it at the time: “Who likes ass?” On the white butcher paper covering the table Tyra scrawled VICTORIA’S SECRET and SPORTS ILLUSTRATED.

“Those are your new clients,” her mom declared. With that, Tyra made the decision to pivot. She bounced from the exclusive world of high fashion and landed, spectacularly, on the cover of one of the most prominent arbiters of male heterosexual desirability in America. It was more than a savvy business move. “SI changed my life,” says Banks.

Before the pink polka-dot bikini, Banks was known mostly among fashion insiders and fans. “But after SI, my

Q Score went to No. 1. Suddenly, I had household-name status. I was reaching young, old, male, female—everybody,” she recalls.

“It was a game changer,” adds cultural critic Michaela Angela Davis. “At the time mainstream America did not identify black women as sexy, beautiful or desirable. But here you had an American institution, read by everyone from subscribers to women on Madison Avenue, with a brown girl on the cover. And she was gazing right at you. It was steamy, wonderful and amazing.”

Banks’s feat is even more remarkable, notes Davis, when you consider what the supermodel did with her fame. “Beautiful people are given a lot of opportunities for free,” says Davis. “But Tyra took that gift and kept growing. [She saw an open door], walked in and got busy.”



- 1 Banks appeared in several episodes of *Fresh Prince*.
- 2 In 2012 Banks completed a program at Harvard Business School.
- 3 *Top Model* made its premiere in 2003.
- 4 Stanford grad students learn about personal branding from an expert in the field.

BY THE EARLY 2000s, Banks had positioned herself as a one-woman media juggernaut. She’d left modeling for good and was focusing all her energy on television, making her mark as the refreshingly candid big-sister patron saint of young women everywhere. Covering hot topics like relationships, sex and self-esteem, her eponymous daytime talk show debuted in 2005, immediately capturing the 18-to-34 demo and winning two Daytime Emmys. Even more impressive was the success of *America’s Next Top Model*.

Banks’s brainchild became one of the longest-running competition reality shows of all time, airing in 180 countries and spawning 40 international versions. The show features contestants vying for a modeling contract. But Banks is undeniably the star. One of her many skills is an uncanny ability to coin instantly meme-able phrases, like *flawsome*—a portmanteau of *flaws* and *awesome*, as in, when your quirk turns out to be your greatest asset—and *booty tooch*, which you should probably just google.

Banks also made sure the aspiring models featured on the show represented a range of ethnicities and beauty ideals, promoting diversity in the fashion industry before it became cool. There were nerdy girls and curvy girls, a model with vitiligo, another with alopecia. The most recent cycle included a 42-year-old grandmother.

IN FRONT OF her class, just like on her shows, Banks dispenses wisdom in bite-sized catchphrases. “Perfect is boring,” she proclaims (which is also the title of the 2018 memoir she cowrote with her mother), and “different is better than better.” She exhorts her students to embrace their vulnerabilities while reminding them, “Your personal brand needs to be so strong that you can withstand anything. If you fall down, you can get back up!” The students lean forward, in rapt attention.

Banks, who in 2012 completed an executive training program at Harvard Business School, peppers her lecture with plenty of personal anecdotes. But she doesn’t share her biggest business news of all. Banks is leveraging two decades of fame (or, as they say in business school, “brand equity”) to launch her most ambitious project to date: Modelland, a one-stop wonderland of all things fierce. “It’s like Disneyland for beauty and fashion,” Banks explains.

Scheduled to open later this year, in a 21,000-square-foot space just steps from the Santa Monica Pier, Modelland will give visitors the experience of being a model for a day. There’s going to be “amazing food and delightful shopping,” she adds. “The whole family can have fun.”

The attraction also has an elaborate backstory. “Modelland is a fictitious modeling academy,” Banks explains. “A really negative place, with very narrow confines of beauty. However, a girl named Tookie De La Crème—who also stars in *Modelland*, the novel—with a big forehead gets accepted to Modelland, and she has no idea why. While at school, Tookie and her squad of atypical beauties change the face of beauty worldwide.” Banks grins: “It’s kind of like me 20 years ago, but Tookie’s getting the credit.”

Banks calls Modelland, which she’s been developing for the past decade, “the biggest dream I’ve ever had.” But like all things Banks, the endeavour is about much more than bringing modeling to the masses. It’s a celebration of reinvention, fantasy and, as she puts it, “finding your fiercest self.” Most of all Banks aims to inspire playful abandon. Like that feeling you get when you have an ice cream party before a swimsuit shoot. Which brings Tyra back to what she is doing on the cover of this magazine dressed in nothing but a dental-floss bikini.

“I am telling people that beauty comes in all shapes, sizes and ages” she says. “I have to put my money where my mouth is. I have to make sure my message is pure.” Banks, who signed with a new modeling agency, NEXT, in April, is also adopting a new moniker for her comeback. Banks, the model, will from now on go by BanX, with the X representing X-ing out cookie-cutter beauty. “Mononyms are exciting in the industry,” she says. “But usually models use their first names, like Iman. I want to flip the script and go by my last name. I’m taking something familiar and making it new. I’m wiser now,” she adds, “and thicker. BanX is me, but she’s also every woman. BanX represents rebirth and that beauty boundaries only exist to be broken.” □

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Lamington Island

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
JOSIE CLOUGH



Samantha Hoopes

Swimsuit by
**TEENYB BIKINI
COUTURE**
(\$204)

Hair by
MICHAEL BRENNAN
for **THE ARTIST GROUP**
using **ORIBE**

Makeup by
PETER BEARD
for **THE ARTIST
GROUP SYDNEY**
using **CHARLOTTE
TILBURY**
Accommodations by
**LIFETIME PRIVATE
RETREATS**

Promotional
consideration
provided by
VIRGIN AUSTRALIA
and **SOUTH AUSTRALIAN
TOURISM COMMISSION**

Location production by
**CINDI BLAIR
PRODUCTIONS/
TURKS & CAICOS
PRODUCTIONS**

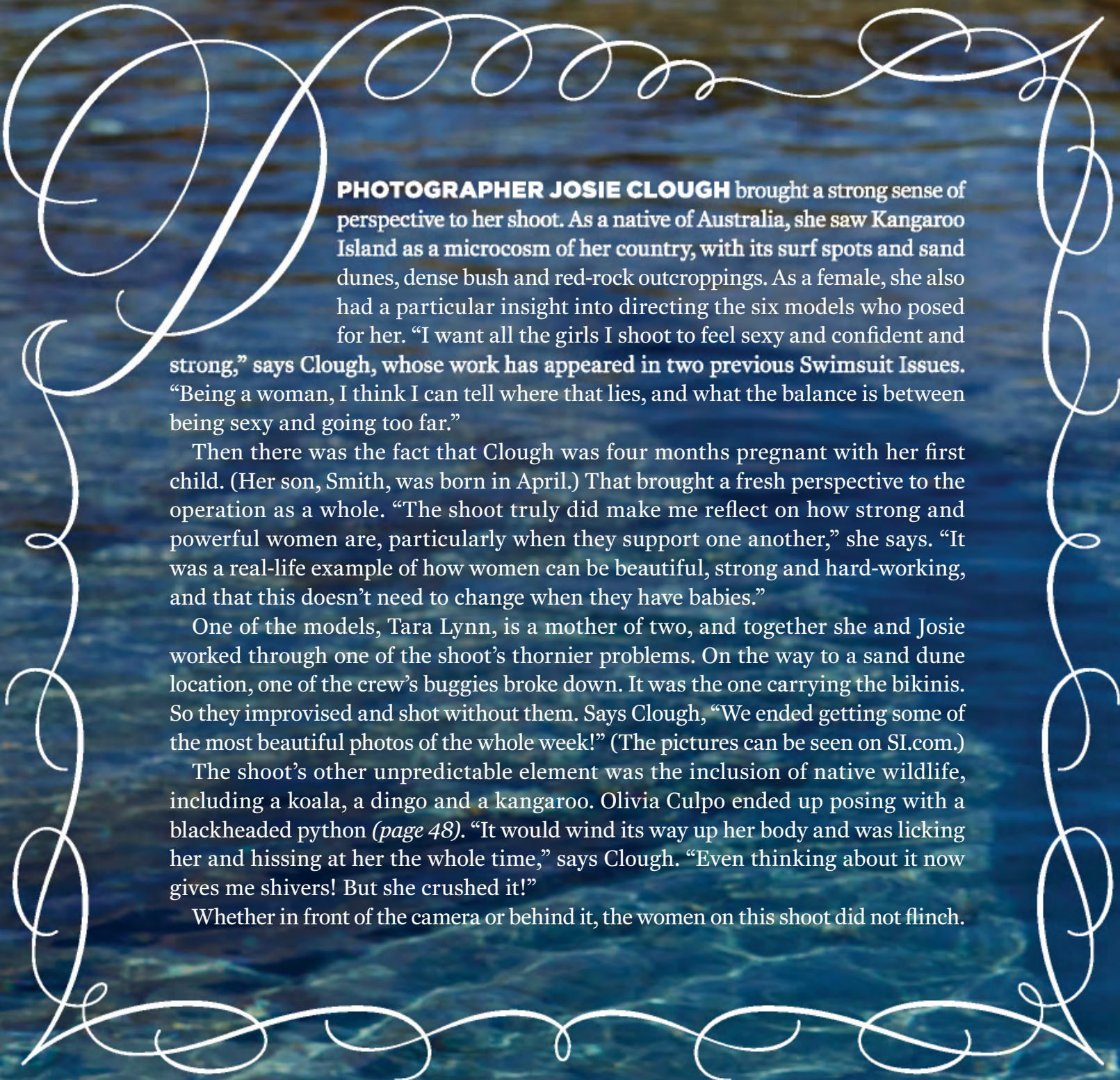
Lettering by
RYAN HAMRICK





Myla
Dalbesio

Swimsuit by
AMANDA LOUISE
SWIMWEAR
(\$84)



PHOTOGRAPHER JOSIE CLOUGH brought a strong sense of perspective to her shoot. As a native of Australia, she saw Kangaroo Island as a microcosm of her country, with its surf spots and sand dunes, dense bush and red-rock outcroppings. As a female, she also had a particular insight into directing the six models who posed for her. “I want all the girls I shoot to feel sexy and confident and strong,” says Clough, whose work has appeared in two previous Swimsuit Issues. “Being a woman, I think I can tell where that lies, and what the balance is between being sexy and going too far.”

Then there was the fact that Clough was four months pregnant with her first child. (Her son, Smith, was born in April.) That brought a fresh perspective to the operation as a whole. “The shoot truly did make me reflect on how strong and powerful women are, particularly when they support one another,” she says. “It was a real-life example of how women can be beautiful, strong and hard-working, and that this doesn’t need to change when they have babies.”

One of the models, Tara Lynn, is a mother of two, and together she and Josie worked through one of the shoot’s thornier problems. On the way to a sand dune location, one of the crew’s buggies broke down. It was the one carrying the bikinis. So they improvised and shot without them. Says Clough, “We ended getting some of the most beautiful photos of the whole week!” (The pictures can be seen on SI.com.)

The shoot’s other unpredictable element was the inclusion of native wildlife, including a koala, a dingo and a kangaroo. Olivia Culpo ended up posing with a blackheaded python (*page 48*). “It would wind its way up her body and was licking her and hissing at her the whole time,” says Clough. “Even thinking about it now gives me shivers! But she crushed it!”

Whether in front of the camera or behind it, the women on this shoot did not flinch.

A full-page photograph of Hailey Clauson posing in shallow ocean water. She is wearing a leopard print strapless tube top and matching high-cut bottoms. Her arms are raised, and she is looking towards the camera. The background shows rocky shorelines and blue water.

Hailey
Clauson

Swimsuit by
MONICA HANSEN
BEACHWEAR
(\$174)

Olivia
Culpo

Swimsuit by
BEACH BUNNY
(\$188)



FULL-BODIED PERFECTION



Honored as a war hero, branded as an outlaw. Clyde May was a man who broke a few laws but never cut corners. Made from only the finest ingredients, his Straight Bourbon Whiskey is proof his spirit lives on. clydemays.com

Produced by Conecuh Brands, LLC, Garden City, NY. 46% alcohol by volume. Bend the rules, but please drink responsibly.



Camille
Kostek

Swimsuit by
MESHKI
(\$88)



Myla
Dalbesio

Swimsuit by
**MONICA HANSEN
BEACHWEAR**
(\$176)

View additional
**VIDEOS &
PHOTOS**
AT SI.COM/SWIMSUIT

For credits, see
WHERE TO BUY
in the back of the issue

Tara
Lynn
Swimsuit by
OLA VIDA
(\$170)



Samantha
Hoopes

Swimsuit by
FRANKIES BIKINIS
(\$170)



A woman with long brown hair is standing on a beach, wearing a black lace one-piece swimsuit. The background shows the ocean and some rocks.

Swimsuit by
**CHARMOSA
SWIMWEAR
BY N HALL**
(\$128)

A woman with long brown hair is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark blue swimsuit with a crisscross strap over the shoulders. The background is a soft, out-of-focus beach scene.

Swimsuit by
**RHEYA
SWIM**
(\$78)

A woman with long blonde hair is posing on a beach, wearing a leopard print one-piece swimsuit. She is looking back over her shoulder at the camera. The background shows the ocean and some rocks.

Swimsuit by
**MONICA
HANSEN
BEACHWEAR**
(\$185)



Hailey
Clauson

Swimsuit by
ANDI BAGUS
(\$30)

Myla
Dalbesio

Swimsuit by
ANDI BAGUS
(\$70)

Shot at
**KANGAROO ISLAND
WILDLIFE PARK**





Olivia
Culpo

Swimsuit by
**VIX PAULA
HERMANNY**
(\$88)

Earrings by
ANUJA TOLIA



Samantha
Hoopes

Swimsuit by
SWIM LIKE A MERMAID
(\$168)



Tara
Lynn

Swimsuit by
LEE + LANI
(\$254)



Myla
Dalbesio
Swimsuit by
OYE SWIMWEAR
(\$350)



Olivia
Culpo

Swimsuit by
SOMMER SWIM
(\$138)

iPhone XS now runs on Straight Talk.

With the amazing new camera, your “likes” record is about to get crushed.



UNLIMITED
TALK, TEXT AND DATA
25GB UP TO 4G LTE¹ THEN 2G
\$45_{/mo}
NO CONTRACT

Switch to Straight Talk Wireless and get the bigger, more powerful iPhone XS with the TrueDepth camera for enhanced Portrait mode selfies. And now, with our improved \$45 Unlimited Plan, you'll save up to 50% on your wireless bill compared to the big carriers. Plus you still get great coverage on America's largest and most dependable 4G LTE¹ networks.

Straight
Talk
wireless

"Up to 50%" is based on a comparison of the monthly cost of the \$45 Straight Talk Service Plan and the monthly cost for a single line on a comparable no-contract plan with unlimited talk, text and data on the top two carriers. Excludes taxes, fees, autopay discounts and limited time pricing. Source: Competitor websites, January 2019. ¹Actual availability, coverage and speed may vary. LTE is a trademark of ETSI. A month equals 30 days. *See terms and conditions at StraightTalk.com.

Only at
Walmart 

Camille
Kostek



A full-page photograph of Hailey Clauson, a blonde model with wavy hair, posing on a beach. She is wearing a black and white seashell bikini. The background is a blurred beach scene with sand and water. In the top right corner, there is text identifying her name, the brand, and the price of the swimsuit.

Hailey
Clauson

Swimsuit by
AGUA BENDITA
SWIMWEAR
(\$289)



Hailey Clauson

Swimsuit by
I.AM.GIA
(\$71)

TRAVEL

KANGAROO ISLAND

Pure bliss is a short hop from the coast of South Australia

DESTINATION

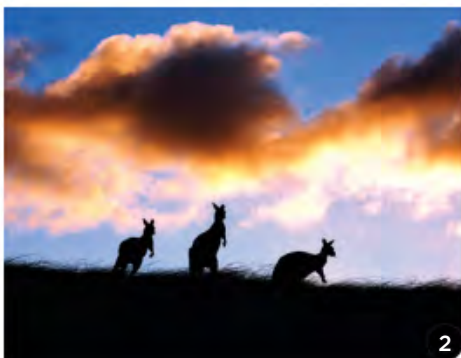
Located 10 miles off the coast of Adelaide, in South Australia, Kangaroo Island is stunning. But is it worth traveling halfway around the world for? Yes—especially if you take Virgin Australia, which makes the flight to Adelaide, um, fly by thanks to awesome entertainment choices and food. (Meals in business class are designed by celebrity chef Luke Mangan.) From there, Kangaroo Island is just a 20-minute flight away. virginaustralia.com

ACCOMMODATION

LifeTime Private Retreats consists of five houses on 25 gorgeous acres. They range from a villa on the property's highest point (the Sky House) to the Beach Retreat. (+61-8-8559-2248, *houses and villas starting at \$315*) life-time.co.au

RECREATION

Well, there's a reason they call it Kangaroo Island. If you go out and explore, there's a good chance you'll come across one of the marsupials that gives the place its name. In addition to the 'roos, you'll find wallabies, sea lions and koalas. And they will most likely be friendly, since there are no natural predators on the island. After a hard day of relaxing, guests at LifeTime have several dining choices, including a beach taverna in the summer and an 80-year-old shearing shed made of sugar gum trees and corrugated iron. The coolest option, though, is the Enchanted Fig Tree lunch, served beneath the boughs of a tree planted by early settlers. It's straight out of Wonderland. Which would be a fitting name for Kangaroo Island.



- 1** Sheoaks, nestled into a hillside, is just steps from the beach.
- 2** If you venture out on Kangaroo Island, you'll have company.
- 3** The branches of the Enchanted Fig Tree reach the ground and provide a truly unique lunchtime setting with its leaf ceiling.

MEET THE LOCAL BEACH BUMS.



Welcome to an island inhabited by beach bums. Over one million, to be precise. South Australia's aptly-named Kangaroo Island is home to more than a million kangaroos and wallabies, sharing pristine beaches, iconic bushland and wild coast with a whole host of iconic Australian wildlife. Fly Virgin Australia to Adelaide to get up-close and personal with our furry friends on Australia's zoo without fences.

Simone Biles

Swimsuit by
TRIANG
(\$79)

Simone Biles's hair by
ALEX ARIZMENDY
Lindsey Vonn's and
Paige VanZant's hair by
BOK-HEE
at **LOWE & CO**
using **ORIBE**

Makeup by
ANA MARIE RIZZIERI
using **CHANEL**

Accommodations by
HOTEL BOUTIQUE
CASA VELAS

Promotional
consideration
provided by
PUERTO VALLARTA
TOURISM BOARD

Location production
by **CINDI BLAIR**
PRODUCTIONS/
TURKS & CAICOS
PRODUCTIONS

Lettering by
KYLE
LETENDRE



A photograph of a person's legs from the knees down, resting on a sandy beach. The person is lying down, and their legs are extended towards the right. The background is a clear blue sky with a large, white, feathery shadow of a palm tree frond cast across it. The ocean is visible in the distance, meeting the horizon line.

These three elite athletes work
tirelessly to stay on top
of their games. And it shows

PUERTO VALLARTA
MEXICO
PHOTOGRAPHS
BY
WALTER CHIN

Lindsey
Vonn

Swimsuit by
**HAUS OF
PINKLEMONAID**
(\$111)





Swimsuit by
BEACH BUNNY
(\$240)



Swimsuit by
LYBETHRAS
(\$120)



Swimsuit by
AEXAE SWIM
(\$57)

Simone Biles

Swimsuit by
SUBOO
(\$70)





Swimsuit by
ARROW & EVE
(\$164)



LINDSEY VONN—who is making her third Swimsuit Issue appearance—clearly isn't shy about displaying her physique. She shouldn't be; it's the product of two decades of hard work. "My body has been the center point of my career for a long time," says the 34-year-old skier. Vonn began competing on the World Cup circuit when she was 15 and continued to push herself as she piled up 82 victories on the circuit (the most ever for a female skier), as well as three Olympic medals. In the years of careening down mountains Vonn also broke bones and tore up both knees, which only added to the hours she spent in the gym. "The more I was injured, the more work it took to maintain my body," she says. Her shoot in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, was a chance to be photographed before adding one more scar to her body—this one to her left knee, for surgery in April to repair a torn ligament.

Vonn retired from competitive skiing in February, but judging from the exercise photos she shares online, she's going to keep her body in Olympic form. "Working

out is just part of my DNA," she says. "It won't be the same, but I enjoy being in the gym." Shortly after her last race, she said she was happy to be able to spend more time with her boyfriend, NHL star P.K. Subban, but she misses a daily regimen. "I have a million emails I need to respond to," she says. "But who wants to do that?"

This shoot was a relative breeze compared with 2016, when she spent 13 hours having her body painted. In Puerto Vallarta, slipping into a conventional swimsuit was a joy. Her only regret was not being in Mexico at the same time as the two other athletes, both of whom have spent countless hours working out. "Simone Biles is so awesome," she says of the gymnast who owns more individual world championship medals than any woman in history (not to mention four Olympic golds). And Vonn was also bummed not to get the chance to meet mixed martial artist Paige VanZant. But, hey—knowing the three, there's a pretty good chance they'll cross paths in a gym one day.





Lindsey
Vonn

Swimsuit by
**HAUS OF
PINKLEMONAID**
(\$134)



Swimsuit by
CALI DREAMING
(\$196)



Swimsuit by
TEENYB BIKINI
COUTURE
(\$54)



Swimsuit by
TEENYB BIKINI
COUTURE
(\$128)

View additional
**VIDEOS &
PHOTOS**
AT SI.COM/SWIMSUIT

For credits, see
WHERE TO BUY
in the back of the issue

Paige
VanZant

Swimsuit by
AEXAE SWIM
(\$114)



Simone
Biles

Swimsuit by
NIRVANIC SWIM
(\$70)



TRAVEL

PUERTO VALLARTA

*In the Sierra Madres,
a true treasure*

DESTINATION

Unlike many international destinations in Mexico, Puerto Vallarta was not built to attract tourists. Located near the Sierra Madres, it's a fascinating city brimming with colonial culture as well as that of the Huichol, the area's indigenous population. The area is also home to an eclectic array of wildlife; the best time to visit is November, when the humpback whales and baby alligators are out in force.

ACCOMMODATION

The Hotel Boutique Casa Velas offers guests unlimited golf—and unlimited handbags. Yes, if you forget a purse or need a fancy one for a night out, the hotel has a “handbag bar.” Fear not, men—it includes a murse.

While that's a fairly modern touch, the hotel also embraces tradition. The resort features storytelling dinners at which guests are taught about local dishes and Huichol culture and community. (877-418-3011, suites from \$232 per person) hotelcasavelas.com

RECREATION

The storytelling dinners are held at a downtown gallery. If you're inspired and want to create some art of your own, Casa Velas offers art classes that are paired with wine tastings. Guests looking for something a little harder should try *raicilla*, a smoked agave described by one local as “tequila's nutty cousin.” There aren't many places better for enjoying a cocktail after a day of hiking, shopping or chilling out than the Ocean Club at Casa Velas.



1



2



3

- 1 The beachfront Ocean Club at Casa Velas is for adults only.
- 2 Food options include Emiliano, a gourmet restaurant serving Mexican cuisine, and the Ocean Club's Asian fare.
- 3 The pool at Casa Velas features a swim-up bar.



PUERTO VALLARTA



visitpuertovallarta.com



puertovallarta



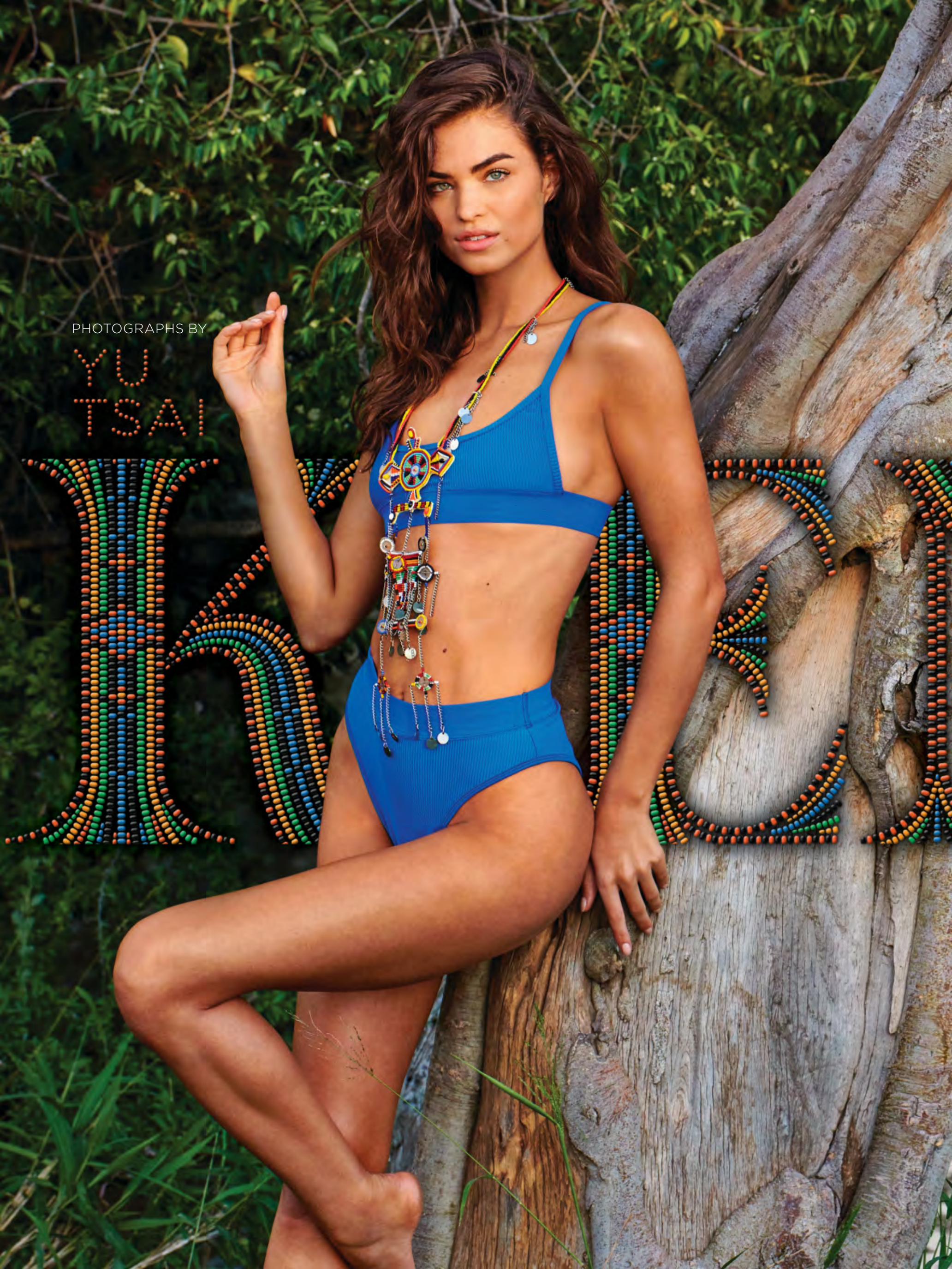
@puertovallarta



@visitpuertovallarta

PHOTOGRAPHS BY

YU
TSAI



Robin
Holzken

Swimsuit by
FRANKIES BIKINIS
(\$175)

Hair by
JOHN RUGGIERO
at **THE WALL GROUP**
using **BUMBLE & BUMBLE**

Makeup by
TRACY MURPHY
at **STATEMENT ARTISTS**
using **ST. TROPEZ**
TAN PRODUCTS

WYLA

Accommodations by
HEMINGWAYS WATAMU and
HEMINGWAYS NAIROBI,
MEMBERS OF SMALL LUXURY
HOTELS OF THE WORLD
and **OL SEKI**
HEMINGWAYS MARA

Promotional consideration
provided by
KENYA AIRWAYS LTD
and **HEMINGWAYS EXPEDITIONS**

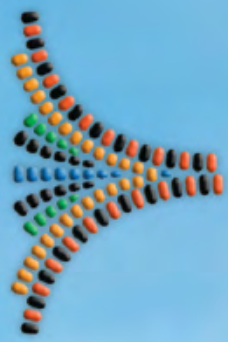
Location production by
BAKER KENT PRODUCTION

Lettering by
LUKE LUCAS

Halima
Aden

Burkini by
MICOSUZA
(\$36)





TRAVELING TO KENYA to model in a burkini was just the latest leg in the remarkable journey of Halima Aden—one which began in that same country, but under very different circumstances. Halima was born in a Kenyan refugee camp, Kakuma, to parents who had fled Somalia, and she lived in the camp for seven years before emigrating to the

United States in 2004. That beginning made her appreciate the country's spectacular shores all the more when she returned as a model. "As a refugee I had seen the tears," she says. "Now I could see the beauty and the smiles."

Halima drew worldwide attention in 2016 when she competed in the Miss Minnesota pageant while wearing a burkini, a style of swimwear designed to conform to the Islamic traditions of modesty. That launched a modeling career defined by high-fashion firsts, including wearing a hijab on the cover of

British *Vogue*. Last year she became a UNICEF ambassador and returned to Kakuma to tell her story in a TEDx Talk—the first one held in a refugee camp. In her speech she declared that being a minority "is about using yourself as a vessel to create change and be a human representation of the power of diversity."

Wearing a burkini in the Swimsuit Issue had been a goal of hers since she began modeling. Halima didn't swim growing up, and she hopes that burkinis will help girls like her feel more at home in the water. "I can't wait to see an Olympian wearing a burkini," she says. Halima has also had non-Muslim friends tell her they'd like to wear a burkini for sun cover, or just plain old cover: "Modest swimwear should be celebrated," she says.

But Halima doesn't have any hesitancy about appearing in an issue where the swimwear can be immodest—sometimes *really* immodest. "I support all choices," she says. "A woman should be able to choose what she wants to wear."





Anne
de Paula

Swimsuit by
NORA SWIMWEAR
(\$50)

Body chain by
KIUMBE KULTURE



Paulina
Porizkova

Swimsuit by
MESHKI
(\$60)

Necklace by
ADELE DEJAK



Swimsuit by
OLA VIDA
(\$190)
Earrings by
ADELE DEJAK



Swimsuit by
CHLOÉ ROSE
(\$180)
Necklace by
JIAMINI



Haley
Kalil

Swimsuit by
MAUI GIRL
(price upon
request)

Halima Aden

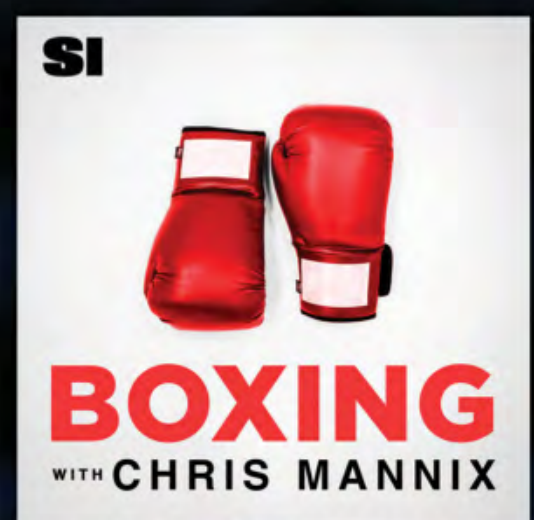
Bodysuit by
SPEERISE
(\$30)

Hat and scarf by
GUCCI



Sports Illustrated
PODCASTS

SPORTS ILLUSTRATED'S PODCAST NETWORK




LISTEN ON

[SI.COM/PODCASTS](https://www.si.com/podcasts)





HEMINGWAYS
OL SEKI MARA

www.hemingways-collectors.com

TOYOTA LAND CRUISER

LAND CRUISER

Anne
de Paula

Swimsuit by
MESHKI
(\$47)

Necklace by
EPICA JEWELRY



Robin
Holzken

Swimsuit by
LEE + LANI
(price upon request)





Haley
Kalil

Swimsuit by
FRANKIES BIKINIS
(\$170)

Body chain by
KIUMBE KULTURE



View additional
**VIDEOS &
PHOTOS**
AT SI.COM/SWIMSUIT

For credits, see
WHERE TO BUY
in the back of the issue

Paulina
Porizkova

Swimsuit by
TAVIK
(\$60)

Jacket by
**AGUA BENDITA
SWIMWEAR**
(\$700)



Anne
de Paula

Swimsuit by
**VIX PAULA
HERMANNY**
(\$112)





Halima Aden

Bodysuit by
SPEERISE
(\$25)

Top by
YVES SAINT LAURENT
(price upon request)

Necklace by
ADELE DEJAK

Belt by
LEE + LANI
X MARRIN COSTELLO



Robin
Holzken

Swimsuit by
**TEENYB BIKINI
COUTURE**
(\$106)

Necklace by
JIAMINI



Haley
Kalil
Swimsuit by
BFYNE
(\$186)



Paulina
Porizkova

Swimsuit by
IZTALI SWIM
(\$179)

Anne de Paula

Swimsuit by
IZTALI SWIM
(\$89)

Top by
ALT SWIM
(\$50)





Robin
Holzken

Swimsuit by
BFYNE
(\$199)

TRAVEL

KENYA

Natural wonders are evident all over
this divine African nation

DESTINATION

Located on Africa's east coast, Kenya is one of the most geographically diverse nations in the world. Getting there is easy; Kenya Airways offers five nonstop flights a week from New York City to Nairobi, with luxurious service that includes flatbed seats in business class.

kenya-airways.com

ACCOMMODATION

Kenya was a favorite destination of Ernest Hemingway, who was the inspiration behind the Hemingways Collection. Its three

properties, spread out across the southern portion of the country, offer a chance to see Kenya in all its splendor. Hemingways Watamu is a relaxing coastal resort featuring suites with views of the Indian Ocean. Hemingways Nairobi is a five-star boutique hotel that provides every guest with a butler. And Ol Seki Hemingways Mara is a luxury tented camp located in the private Naboisho Conservancy. Each of the 10 tents has a terrace with stunning views of the Koiyaki

plains. Ol Seki is a type of tree, and its name means *blessed* in the Maasai language. That's how you'll feel after a stay. (+254-711-032-000)

hemingways-collection.com

RECREATION

Each Hemingways property provides different activities—all of which are appealing. Watamu has snorkeling, kite surfing and sunset Dhow cruises. In Nairobi, you can visit a preserve and get a kiss from a rare Rothschild giraffe. In addition to custom-tailored safaris, Ol Seki Mara also offers horseback and balloon safaris, a chance to get a different perspective on an unforgettable experience.






1 Hemingways Watamu, which is located on Turtle Bay, lets guests relax on white sand beaches. **2** The suites at Hemingways Nairobi are inspired by a traditional Kenyan safari. **3** At Ol Seki Hemingways Mara, the tents afford a view of animals in their natural habitats.

Experience Africa, the ultimate adrenaline rush



From the exciting action of your favourite sport to the thrilling stampede of a thousand wildebeest in the Maasai Mara. This season, catch nature at its wildest while exploring the African continent.

kenya-airways.com

   @KenyaAirways  KQ mobile

#LetKQTakeYouThere

Kenya Airways offers non-stop flights from New York to Nairobi, Kenya with convenient connections to the rest of Africa.

 **Kenya Airways**
The Pride of Africa 

With the World Cup
looming, the members
of the U.S. women's
national soccer team
are showing they
can be as fierce off
the field as on it



Alex
Morgan

Swimsuit by
GIGI C BIKINIS
(\$310)

Hair by
ANTHONY CRISTIANO
for **ANTHONY**
CRISTIANO CHICAGO

Makeup by
CHRISTINE CHERBONNIER
at **THE WALL GROUP**
for **MILK MAKEUP** using
HYDRO GRIP PRIMER

Accommodations by
MARIGOT BAY RESORT
AND MARINA

Promotional consideration
provided by
SAINT LUCIA
TOURISM AUTHORITY

Location production
by **CINDI BLAIR**
PRODUCTIONS/
TURKS & CAICOS
PRODUCTIONS

Lettering by
JESSICA HISCHE



ST. LUCIA

GOALS

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
BEN WATTS



Megan
Rapinoe

Swimsuit by
**HAUS OF
PINKLEMONAID**
(\$107)

Crystal
Dunn

Swimsuit by
PISTOL PANTIES
BY DEBORAH
FLEMING
(\$180)





Abby Dahlkemper

Swimsuit by
**HAUS OF
PINKLEMONAID**
(\$143)

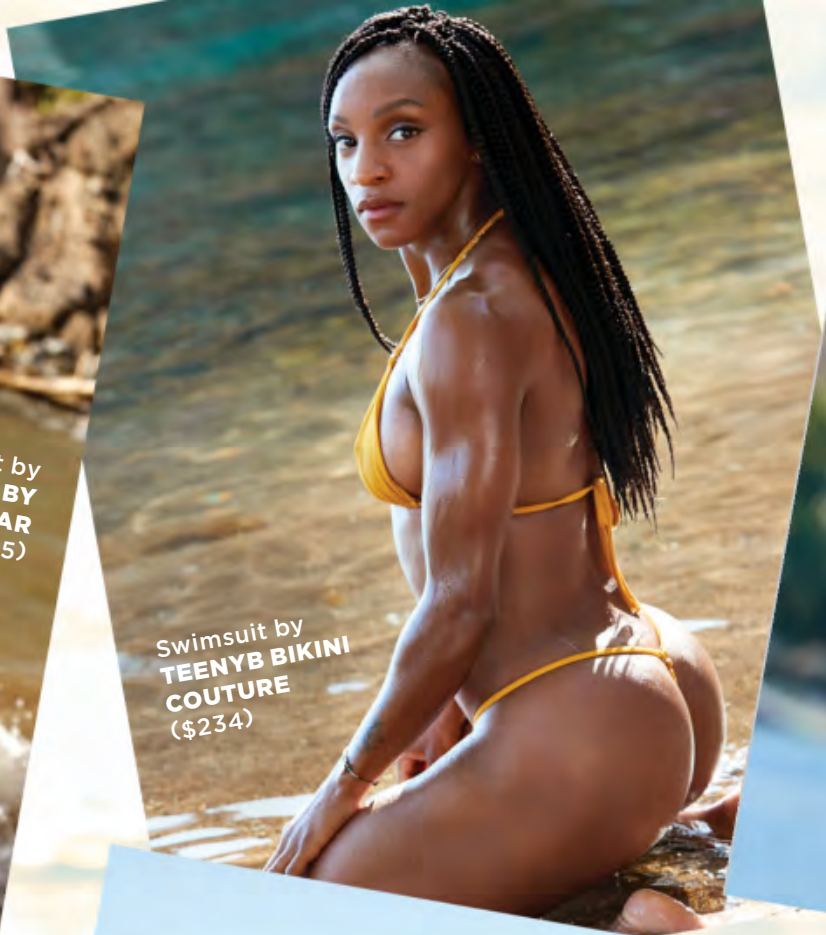
Shot at
ANSE MAMIN



Alex
Morgan
Swimsuit by
INDAH
(\$225)



Swimsuit by
**CYNABABY
SWIMWEAR**
(\$145)



Swimsuit by
**TEENYB BIKINI
COUTURE**
(\$234)



Swimsuit by
PEIXOTOSWIM
(\$68)



Swimsuit by
**ARROW +
PHOENIX
SWIMWEAR**
(\$148)



Swimsuit by
**LUMAHAI
SWIM**
(\$45)

Top by
**JEN'S
PIRATE
BOOTY**
(\$135)



Swimsuit by
**LAUREN
LAYNE SWIM**
(\$120)

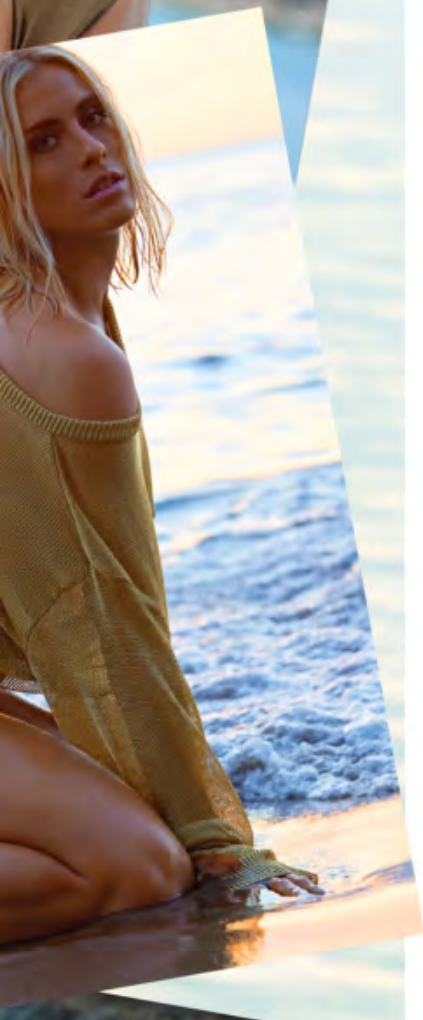


Swimsuit by
**TEENYB
BIKINI
COUTURE**
(\$116)

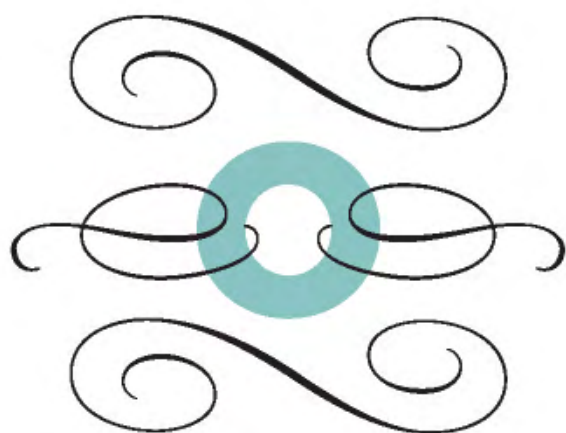




Swimsuit by
**MONDAY
SWIMWEAR**
(\$157)



Swimsuit by
LYBETHRAS
(\$180)



ON THE PITCH these women have shown they won't back down from any opponent. Now they are taking their fight to the courtroom in the battle for equal pay. Alex Morgan, Megan Rapinoe, Abby Dahlkemper and Crystal Dunn were among the 28 members of the U.S. women's national team who filed a gender discrimination suit against the U.S. Soccer Federation on March 8—which is International Women's Day. According to the suit, the women (the reigning world champs) were in many cases paid less than half of what the men (who failed to qualify for the last World Cup) made. Morgan, who has been on the national team since 2010 and scored seven goals for the U.S. in the 2015 World Cup, says, "We have elevated the sport of soccer here and abroad, we are some of the most recognizable footballers in the world, and we deserve to be treated equally in our sport."

Morgan is appearing in her third Swimsuit Issue, and this time around she helped run the show by choosing which team members would join her. She even checked in on Rapinoe's preshoot fitting session and pulled a suit for her to wear. Morgan and Dahlkemper were fitness buddies in the two weeks before the St. Lucia shoot, doing extra core exercises and keeping an eye on their diets. Dunn, says Morgan, is just a pleasure to have around. "She is a competitor on the field, but away from it, she likes to have fun, dance and make jokes," Morgan says. "Everyone needs a Crystal in their life."

Next month, the U.S. national team will begin the defense of its World Cup title in France. Says Morgan, "The opportunity to be featured in the Swimsuit Issue four weeks before the World Cup is a huge honor." One thing is certain: We know these women will put up a fight.



Swimsuit by
**PISTOL PANTIES
BY DEBORAH
FLEMING**
(\$180)



Swimsuit by
FAE
(\$126)



Swimsuit by
**GIGI C
BIKINIS**
(\$208)



Abby
Dahlkemper

Swimsuit by
MONDAY SWIMWEAR
(\$157)

Shot at
ANSE CHASTANET

Crystal
Dunn

Swimsuit by
DOLCESSA
(\$160)







View additional
**VIDEOS &
PHOTOS**
AT [SI.COM/SWIMSUIT](https://si.com/swimsuit)

For credits, see
WHERE TO BUY
in the back of the issue

Megan
Rapinoe

Swimsuit by
INDAH
(\$240)

TRAVEL

ST. LUCIA

Take in its stunning landmarks and you'll see what all the fighting was about

DESTINATION

The old maxim that anything worth having is worth fighting for could have been coined with St. Lucia in mind. The island is known as the Helen of the West Indies, both for its beauty and for the strife it caused among nations: Before gaining its independence 40 years ago, St. Lucia changed hands between Great Britain and France 14 times. Its colonial history lives on in the rich English, French and Creole traditions that can still be observed.

ACCOMMODATION

Marigot Bay Resort, located on the island's northwest coast, offers guests a choice: Be pampered, or get out and explore the local environs. Of course, there's nothing that says you can't do both. Marigot Bay's spa offers indigenous treatments that incorporate local traditions and ingredients—everything from volcanic mud to nutmeg. (You'll smell delicious!) You don't have to travel far to find some adventure. And if you happen to

have a boat, you're in luck—the resort's marina is one of the Caribbean's most scenic yachting hubs. (877-384-8037, rooms from \$344)

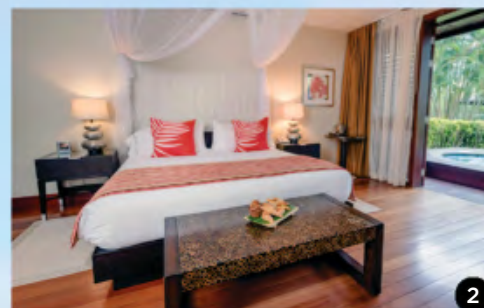
marigotbayresort.com

RECREATION

The Pitons—a spectacular pair of active volcanoes that rise from the sea (*below*, behind Alex)—can be hiked, which provides spectacular views. They're such an iconic part of St. Lucia that a local beer is named for them. But the spirit that's most associated with St. Lucia is rum, and the best places to enjoy it are the tastings at Marigot Bay's Rum Cave and at the swim-up Pool Bar.



1



2



3

1 The marina at Marigot Bay is the center of activity at the resort.

2 The rooms balance modern style with West Indian influences. Also (not pictured, sadly) they come with homemade cookies!

3 The serene waters are perfect for sailing and rowing.



Alex Morgan

Swimsuit by
BEACH BUNNY
(\$210)

PLANET FÚTBOL

COVERING THE WORLD'S BIGGEST SPORT



Sports Illustrated

SI.COM/PLANET-FUTBOL

POWERED BY **90min**

© 2019 TI Gotham Inc. SPORTS ILLUSTRATED and PLANET FUTBOL are registered trademarks of TI Gotham Inc., a subsidiary of Meredith Corporation, registered in the U.S. and other countries.

Model: / MODEL-SEARCH / MODEL

MODEL

SEARCH

MODEL·SEA

MODEL SEARCH

Model Search

PARADISE ISLAND
Nassau, Bahamas

PARADISE ISLAND

NASSAU-BAHAMAS

PHOTOGRAPHS
BY YU TSAI

MODEL SEARCH

Model

SEARCH

MODEL SEARCH

MODEL SEARCH



Use





Swimsuit by
**CALI
DREAMING**
(\$196)



Swimsuit by
MESHKI
(\$58)
Top by
**GRACE
BIJOUX**
(\$120)



Swimsuit by
PINK QUEEN
(\$17)

your 2020 vision. Which of these finalists will be in next year's Swimsuit Issue?

Hair by **ADAM MACLAY** using **ORIBE**
Makeup by **PAUL BLANCH** at **TMG-LA** using **HOURLASS**

Accommodations by **THE COVE AT ATLANTIS**
Promotional consideration provided by
THE BAHAMAS MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND AVIATION
Location production by **CINDI BLAIR PRODUCTIONS/
TURKS & CAICOS PRODUCTIONS**

Lettering by **CYLA COSTA**




Swimsuit by
**BEACH
BUNNY**
(\$240)

Swimsuit by
**TEENYB BIKINI
COUTURE**
(\$267)



Swimsuit by
**MILKBABY
BIKINI
BY CAT
THORDARSON**
(price upon
request)





Brooks Nader.

WHERE I'M FROM

Baton Rouge

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT MY HOME

Our seasons consist of
LSU football season,
Mardi Gras season and
crawfish season.

PET PEEVE

When people call
me Brooke

LAST GREAT BOOK I READ

*It's Not Supposed to Be This
Way* by Lisa Terkeurst

GO-TO KARAOKE SONG

"Callin' Baton Rouge"

WHAT I'VE LEARNED ABOUT MYSELF DURING MODEL SEARCH

I am in control of my
destiny. I've regained my
confidence, and I think
that resonates and shines
through to others.

Swimsuit by
ANDI BAGUS
(\$150)

Jessica Aidi

WHERE I'M FROM

Paris and
New York City

PET PEEVE

Intolerance to
other people's
cultures

LAST GREAT BOOK I READ

Becoming by
Michelle Obama

LAST GREAT SONG I HEARD

"La Vie en Rose"
by Lady Gaga

ADVICE TO WOMEN CONSIDERING MODEL SEARCH

Be the best
version of
yourself. Girls, I
did it twice! The
first time didn't
work out, but it's
O.K. to accept
failing, because
look at me now.

Swimsuit by
**TEENYB BIKINI
COUTURE**

(\$118)

Dress by

GRACE BIJOUX
(\$550)



Raine Michaels .

WHERE I'M FROM
Malibu, Calif.

PET PEEVE
People who don't
like animals

**LAST GREAT BOOK
I READ**
Lucky by Alice Sebold

**GO-TO KARAOKE
SONG**
"Don't Stop Believin'"
(I won my eighth-
grade graduation
karaoke competition
with that one.)

**ADVICE TO WOMEN
CONSIDERING MODEL
SEARCH**
Try it! Do not doubt
yourself. You are
amazing, and if you
don't try, you will
never know what
could have been.

Swimsuit by
MYRA SWIM
(\$140)



Veronica Pome'e

WHERE I'M FROM

The Kingdom of Tonga

**WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW
ABOUT MY HOME**

I come from a matriarchal culture where women hold more power than men in families. This also means that women are the holders and caretakers of culture, so we are responsible for preserving and perpetuating Tongan knowledge, tradition and wealth.

LAST GREAT BOOK I READ

Simple Abundance

by Sarah Ban Breathnach

GO-TO KARAOKE SONG

“Waiting in Vain”

**WHAT I'VE LEARNED
ABOUT MYSELF DURING
MODEL SEARCH**

It's not about what's happening to me, it's about who I'm becoming. The process has shown me how much of an impact I can have on young girls and their self-esteem.

Swimsuit by
IOIOM
(\$20)



Manuela Alvarez Hernandez

WHERE I'M FROM
Medellín, Colombia

**WHAT YOU SHOULD
KNOW ABOUT MY HOME**

Colombians are people-centered, happy, humble—and no matter where you are in the country, we will always make you feel at home.

PET PEEVE

When people don't introduce themselves

**LAST GREAT BOOK
I READ**

You Are a Badass: How to Stop Doubting Your Greatness and Start Living an Awesome Life
by Jen Sincero

GO-TO KARAOKE SONG
“Don't Stop Believin'”

**ADVICE TO WOMEN
CONSIDERING
MODEL SEARCH**

Take the risk. You've got nothing to lose. Even if it doesn't work out, you're still a winner—you had the strength to follow your dreams, and that's the kind of bravery that will take you places.

Swimsuit by
**TOXIC SADIE
SWIMWEAR**
(\$45)

Dress by
MESHKI
(\$101)

Erin Willerton

WHERE I'M FROM

Bristol, United Kingdom

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT MY HOME

It's a small city in the southwest of England and pretty much everyone knows each other.

PROFESSION

Final year philosophy student

PET PEEVE

A bit of a weird one: I can't be in the same room as anyone cooking mushrooms.

LAST GREAT BOOK I READ

Because I just finished my dissertation, I have read hundreds of amazing books by feminist epistemologists. If anyone needs a philosophy starter pack, let me know!

GO-TO KARAOKE SONG

Anything by Madonna or Duran Duran

WHAT I'VE LEARNED ABOUT MYSELF DURING MODEL SEARCH

What I have loved about the SI experience is the encouragement and positivity that I have been shown by the team and my fellow five girls. I've learned to believe in myself and stop putting myself down.

Swimsuit by
I.AM.GIA
(\$128)

View additional

VIDEOS & PHOTOS

AT SI.COM/SWIMSUIT

For credits, see

WHERE TO BUY
in the back of the issue



Erin
Willerton

Swimsuit by
CHARMOSA SWIMWEAR
BY N HALL
(\$168)



TRAVEL

PARADISE ISLAND

A home-away-from-home for travelers—and a home for dolphins

DESTINATION

Nassau is the chief tourism hub in the Bahamas, with loads of things to do and see (and drink; let's not forget this is the place that gave us the Bahama Mama) year-round. A bridge from the capital will take you to Paradise Island, where things get even more interesting—and spectacular.

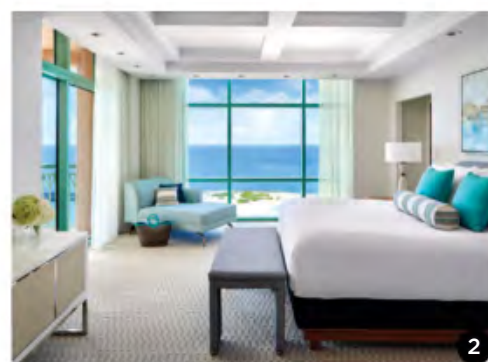
ACCOMMODATION

Atlantis is an amazing resort, with six different places to stay and a 141-acre water park called

Aquaventure that meanders through the property. The most luxurious of the options is The Cove, which relaunched in 2017. Featuring 600 ocean-front suites, it is chic and stylish but holds true to the resort's mantra of Bahamas at Heart, so you'll never forget where you are. Two exquisite restaurants—Sip Sip and Fish by José Andrés—both serve authentic Bahamian-inspired fare. (242-363-3000, rooms from \$479) atlantisbahamas.com

RECREATION

Just as it is committed to preserving Bahamian culture, The Cove—indeed, the entire Atlantis resort—is dedicated to conservation. In addition to the Atlantis Blue Project Foundation, founded to save sea species and their habitats, Atlantis features the largest open-air marine habitat in the world. Visitors can take in 50,000 animals among 250 marine species on display in 14 lagoons. And Dolphin Cay was started in 2007 as a refuge for 17 dolphins whose habitat was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. The 42 dolphins now on the property make wonderful swimming and snorkeling partners.



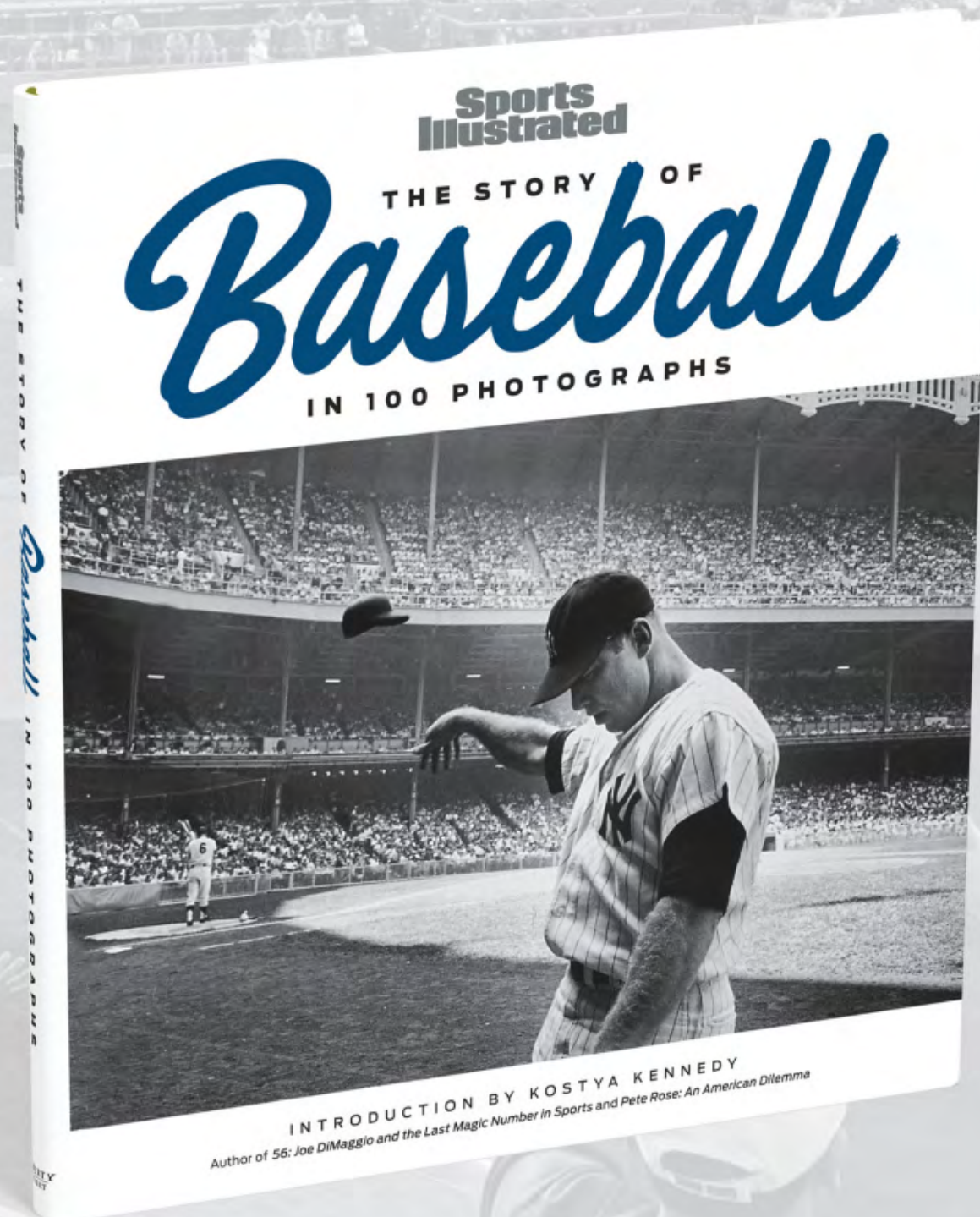
1 The pool at The Cove—one of 11 at Atlantis—is surrounded by 20 cabanas with art and design inspired by the Bahamas.

2 The Cove's rooms have a modern feel—and killer ocean views.

3 The sprawling Atlantis resort features five miles of beaches.

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

BASEBALL'S RICH HISTORY IN 100 MEMORABLE PHOTOGRAPHS



Sports Illustrated explores the sport's cultural heritage and uniquely American character, from the Dead Ball era to the Moneyball years and beyond. Plus a trove of outsized figures: Babe Ruth, Roberto Clemente, Hank Aaron and so many more.

AVAILABLE WHEREVER BOOKS ARE SOLD

COAST

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
**JAMES
MACARI**



AFRICA

Danielle
Herrington

Swimsuit by
ISABELLA ROSE
(\$58)

Hair by
ERIC GABRIEL
at **THE WALL GROUP**

Makeup by
CYNTHIA SOBEK
at **ART DEPARTMENT**
using **MAKE UP FOR EVER**
and **PHOTOSKIN**

Accommodations by
CASA CHAMELEON AT LAS
CATALINAS

Location production by
ORIGEN ESCAPES and
CINDI BLAIR
PRODUCTIONS/TURKS &
CAICOS PRODUCTIONS

Lettering by
ERIK MARINOVICH/
CHARMAINE CHENG

Lais
Ribeiro

Swimsuit by
ANDI BAGUS
(\$60)





Barbara
Palvin

Swimsuit by
**HAUS OF
PINKLEMONAID**
(\$107)





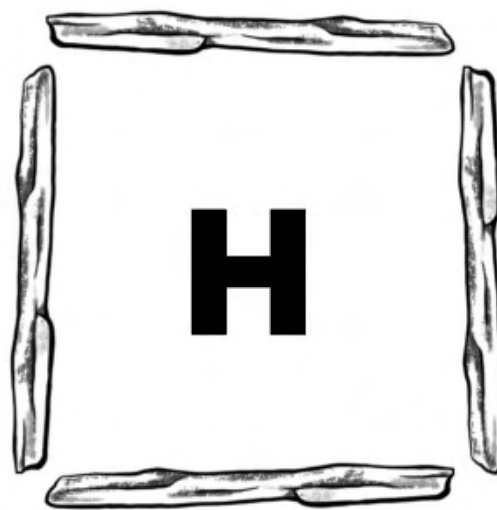
Jasmine
Sanders

Swimsuit by
**TEENYB BIKINI
COUTURE**
(\$224)

Hunter
McGrady

Swimsuit by
YANDY
(\$44)





HUNTER MCGRADY has plenty to say, which is why she was a natural for the advice column “Hello Hunter” that appears on SI.com. The project grew out of the back-and-forths she had with fans on Instagram. “When people write to me, I never treat them like fans, I treat them like friends,” Hunter says. “We’re all learning this life thing together.”

The most popular topic people ask her about is dating, and her chief message to people struggling to find love is that they need to believe in themselves. “It’s about your confidence and loving yourself, which sets a precedent for every relationship you have moving forward,” Hunter says. She also hears from women—and a surprising number of men as well—about body acceptance. Hunter dispenses advice on that topic, and she is also taking action. She and body-positivity blogger Katie Sturino just launched BabeBody, an Instagram page that encourages women of all body types to go to the gym. Followers in New York City will have weekly opportunities to work out together.

Hunter’s own reckoning with her body type has been essential to her success. The daughter of an actor and a model, she made her first run at modeling when she was 15 years old and a size 2, but she was told by photographers that she wasn’t thin enough. Instead of trying to jam a round peg into a thin hole, if you will, she came up to a weight more natural to her six-foot frame, and found happiness and prosperity as a size-16 mold-breaker.

This shoot in Costa Rica marks her third time in the Swimsuit Issue (though her first wearing an actual swimsuit, after appearing twice wearing only body paint). Her previous shoots inspired many but also attracted the predictable online trolls, who wrote that a woman of Hunter’s size didn’t belong in the issue. It’s one of the reasons she wanted to come back. “If anything, those comments make me want to do it even more, because I see the need for body diversity,” she says. “I understand that not everyone can appreciate it, but it’s not going anywhere. So you better get on board.”

That’s some good advice.



View additional
**VIDEOS &
PHOTOS**
AT SI.COM/SWIMSUIT

For credits, see
WHERE TO BUY
in the back of the issue

Kate
Bock

Swimsuit by
**SKIMPY
SWIMWEAR LA**
(\$110)





Danielle
Herrington

Swimsuit by
NIKE SWIM
(\$104)

A full-page photograph of Barbara Palvin posing in a black, high-cut, one-piece swimsuit. She is kneeling on a sandy beach, with her back to the camera but looking over her shoulder. Her long, wavy brown hair is blowing in the wind. The background shows a calm body of water reflecting the sky, with a line of trees on the far shore under a soft, hazy sky.

Barbara
Palvin

Swimsuit by
GABRIELA PIRES
BEACHWEAR
(\$220)

Kate
Bock

Swimsuit by
**BOUND BY
BOND-EYE**
(\$150)



Lais
Ribeiro
Swimsuit by
MESHKI
(\$77)





Swimsuit by
OLA VIDA
(\$120)

Sunglasses by
QUAY AUSTRALIA



Jasmine
Sanders

Swimsuit by
PRIX
(\$30)





Barbara
Palvin

Swimsuit by
TROPIC OF C
(\$80)

Top by
NATALIA FEDNER
METAL COUTURE
(\$1,757)



Kate
Bock

Swimsuit by
SKIMPY
SWIMWEAR LA
(\$235)



Hunter
McGrady

Swimsuit by
SIDWAY SWIM
(\$185)

A full-page photograph of a woman with long, dark, curly hair, wearing a red and lime green one-piece swimsuit. She is standing in shallow ocean water, with waves splashing around her legs. The background shows a beach and a clear sky.

Danielle
Herrington

Swimsuit by
HAUS OF PINKLEMONAID
(\$98)



Lais
Ribeiro

Swimsuit by
TROPIC OF C
(\$180)



Barbara
Palvin

Swimsuit by
I.AM.GIA
(\$71)

Kate
Bock

Swimsuit by
ANDI BAGUS
(\$60)



TRAVEL

COSTA RICA

Visit Las Catalinas and you'll be left with one question: Isn't it romantic?

DESTINATION

Few places on earth pack the punch that Costa Rica does. The country takes up .03% of the planet's surface, but it contains nearly 6% of the world's biodiversity. So when you're in this Central American haven, you never know what you might see.

ACCOMMODATION

Casa Chameleon at Las Catalinas has 21 ocean-view villas with private saltwater plunge pools—and no kids. Being adults-only makes the resort ideal for couples looking for a little

us time: TripAdvisor named it one of the 25 best resorts for romance in Central America, and the exquisite Sentido Norte made CNN's list of the World's Most Romantic Restaurants in 2019. (888-705-0274, *villas from \$495*)

casachameleonhotels.com

RECREATION

Las Catalinas, just five minutes away, is a relatively new town with walkable plazas in which no vehicles are allowed. Walking—actually, any kind of activity—is a way of life in the area. Costa

Rica is a hot spot for surfers, scuba divers, mountain bikers, zip liners and, above all, hikers. Casa Chameleon offers countless expeditions, including a river cruise of Palo Verde National Park, where you'll see the wildlife—iguanas, crocodiles, birds, monkeys and bats—that makes the area so diverse. If you'd like to let someone, or something, else do the work, horseback-riding and ATV tours are available as well. And if you're really in need of a jolt? Coffee always helps. Costa Rica produces some of the world's best joe, and you can see how it's produced on the Diria coffee tour, which is an hour and a half away.



1 Pools are abundant—and glorious—at the adults-only Casa Chameleon resort. **2** The surrounding landscape is perfect for guests who want to get out and explore, which can leave you tired. So ... **3** ... it's a good thing the rooms are so comfortable.



Great TAXI

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
LARETTA HOUSTON



Winnie
Harlow

Swimsuit by
DOLCESSA
(\$160)

Hair by
KIM KIMBLE at **SIX K ARTISTS**
assisted by **CHRIS GEES**
Makeup by
VALENTÉ FRAZIER
at **FIRE HOUSE MANAGEMENT**

Accommodations by
GRAND ISLE RESORT & SPA

Promotional consideration
provided by
**THE BAHAMAS MINISTRY OF
TOURISM AND AVIATION**

Location production by
**CINDI BLAIR PRODUCTIONS/
TURKS & CAICOS PRODUCTIONS**

Lettering by
RYAN HAMRICK

WAL

BAHAMAS

Kelsey
Merritt

Swimsuit by
TAVIK
(\$136)





Olivia
Brower

Swimsuit by
SAUIPE SWIM
(\$198)

A full-page photograph of Winnie Harlow, a model with vitiligo, posing on a wooden swing set over a body of water. She is wearing a two-piece swimsuit with a brown and white cow print pattern. She is holding onto the ropes of the swing with both hands and standing on the wooden seat. The background shows a blue sky with white clouds and a distant shoreline with greenery.

Winnie
Harlow

Swimsuit by
**PLUMERIA
SWIMWEAR**
(\$160)

Body chain by
JACQUIE AICHE

IT WAS LIKE a moment out of the movie *Rocky*: A gutsy relative unknown is tapped to take a spot on the biggest stage. Photographer Laretta Houston was at the airport in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, on her way home from a vacation, when she received a call from SI Swimsuit editor MJ Day. Houston's first thought was, *This is a scam*. It seemed too good to believe for Houston, who in the course of her 13-year career in fashion and advertising photography had told friends that she dreamed of one day becoming the first African-American woman hired to shoot for the Swimsuit Issue.

And now it was happening. She was asked to shoot a cast of rookies on Great Exuma. Houston brought to this historic role not just a distinctive eye but also an underdog story of her own.

Houston was born in the Philippines, the child of a Filipino mother and an American serviceman. She spent her early years in poverty. When Houston was 13, her mother died of lupus in her arms. Houston entered foster care and was eventually able to come to the United States, but life was a scramble. Still she followed her passion for photography and built a career, one masterfully composed image at a time.

Houston's excitement about the Swimsuit gig only grew when she learned that she would be shooting models Olivia Brower, Winnie Harlow and Kelsey Merritt. Then came an incredible surprise. After arriving in the Bahamas, she found out that there was one other model on the shoot, Tyra Banks, who had recommended Houston for the job. At times Houston couldn't believe she had made it to this moment, with one of the most successful models in history actually taking her direction. But as the pictures make clear, this Rocky delivered a knockout.





View additional
**VIDEOS &
PHOTOS**
AT SI.COM/SWIMSUIT

For credits, see
WHERE TO BUY
in the back of the issue

Olivia
Brower

Swimsuit by
**SARA CRISTINA
SWIMWEAR**
(\$195)

Kelsey
Merritt

Swimsuit by
DOLCESSA
(\$180)





Winnie
Harlow

Swimsuit by
**TEENYB BIKINI
COUTURE**
(\$106)

Dress by
**NATALIA FEDNER
METAL COUTURE**
(\$5,720)

TRAVEL

GREAT EXUMA

The sights and surroundings in the Caribbean are out of this world

DESTINATION

To fully appreciate just how blue and perfect the water is in the Exumas—a 365-island chain in the Bahamas that begins 35 miles southeast of Nassau—it helps to view the region from above. And not many people have spent more time above—*waaaaaayyyyyy* above—the Caribbean than Scott Kelly, who spent 520 days in space. In 2015 Kelly tweeted that the Bahamas were “the most beautiful place from space.” The area doesn’t look that bad up close, either.

ACCOMMODATION

The must-stay destination is on the island of Great Exuma. Grand Isle Resort & Spa has 78 villas, ranging from one to four bedrooms, feature stunning architecture, private kitchens and terraces with amazing views. In March the property opened 23 North, an upscale beach club and restaurant that, at 30,000 square feet, is big enough to host picture-perfect weddings. (844-615-6272, villas starting from \$400) grandisleresort.com

RECREATION

The turquoise waters are perfect for swimming, but don’t take our word for it. Ask the famed swimming pigs, who can be found on—where else?—Pig Beach on Big Major Cay. Grand Isle Resort offers shark tagging excursions—guests accompany marine biologists on a mission to catch, tag and release tiger, reef, hammerhead and nurse sharks.

If you prefer your shark-related activity to be a little less toothy, Grand Isle has you covered. The resort features an 18-hole golf course designed by the Shark himself: Greg Norman. No matter which adventure you choose, the resort’s signature Exuma Blue cocktail awaits at the end of the day.



1



2



3

- 1 The immaculate beaches at Grand Isle aren’t just for sunbathing.
- 2 The 12-acre grounds are perfect for guests interested in lounging, swimming and golf.
- 3 The Palapa Grill, one of Grand Isle’s three restaurants, serves fresh local seafood.

Winnie Harlow

Swimsuit by
SINESIA KAROL
(\$250)

Sunglasses by
STELLA MCCARTNEY



Sonja the Sea Lion
Volunteer Sea Life
Spokessealion for
Recycle Across America®



Let's recycle right!® Society-wide standardized labels on bins make it easy.

Let's recycle right!®

Text **FIX IT** to **40649**

to ask community leaders to join the nonprofit solution to fix the confusion at the bin.

Message and data rates may apply. Text STOP to cancel or HELP for help. Go to recycleacrossamerica.org/privacy-policy for privacy and terms

Dear Humans,™
We need your help. Seriously.

Animals are getting hurt...

Did you know that six out of ten human items most commonly found in my ocean are recyclable? Isn't that crazy? It's dangerous, too. Animals sustain life-threatening injuries because of the trash and recycling that end up in the oceans. The best way to prevent this from happening is to create a strong recycling culture.

That's why you humans should use standardized labels on recycling bins society-wide...they make it easy to recycle more and recycle right. The U.S. generates more waste than any other country in the world, so we need the U.S. to lead the way!

Here's how you can help – text **FIX IT** to **40649** to ask your elected officials to display the standardized labels on recycling bins in your community.

Let's rid the oceans of waste and recyclables once and for all! Please recycle right, and if you have trash, throw it in the trash bin (and put a lid on it).

Oh, and one more thing – when someone offers you a plastic straw or a plastic bag, please **REFUSE IT, DON'T USE IT™!** They are a huge problem for all of us living here in the oceans

Yours Truly,

SONJA

recycle across america®.org

Recycle Across America is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to expediting environmental progress by introducing society-wide standardized labels on recycling bins, to make it easy and possible for the public to begin to recycle properly, wherever they might be.

Beach Bunny to the Rescue

COVER

On Tyra: Swimsuit by Andi Bagus at andi-bagus.com. On Camille: Swimsuit by Meshki at meshki.com.au. On Alex: Swimsuit by FAE at fae.house.

CONTENTS

Page 3: Swimsuit by Monica Hansen Beachwear at monicahansenbeachwear.com. Page 5: Swimsuit by beijobaby at beijobaby.com. Page 7: Swimsuit by Minimale Animale at minimale-animale.com.

EDITORS LETTER

Page 8–9: Burkini by Cynthia Rowley at cynthiarowley.com.

ROOKIES

Page 11: Swimsuit by Meshki at meshki.com.au. Page 12: Swimsuit by Beach Bunny at beachbunny.com. Page 14: Burkini by Mayovera at mondanisa.com. Page 16: Swimsuit by Tara Lynn Swim at taralynns swim.com. Page 17: Swimsuit by Dolcessa at mydolcessa.com. Page 18: Swimsuit by Beach Bunny at beachbunny.com. Page 19: Swimsuit by Iztali Swim at iztali.com. Page 20: Swimsuit by Thalassa Swim at thalassaswim.com; Top by Grace Bijoux at gracebijoux.com.au.

MODEL TO MOGUL

Pages 22–23: Swimsuit by Minimale Animale at minimale-animale.com; Earrings by Anuja Tolia at anujatolia.com. Page 24: Swimsuit by Kaohs at kaohs.com; Earrings by Jennifer Zeuner Jewelry at jenniferzeuner.com. Page 25: Swimsuit by Fashion Nova at fashionnova.com; Necklace by Bianca Pratt Jewelry at biancaprattjewelry.com. Page 26: Swimsuit by Zimmermann at us.zimmermannwear.com; Earrings by Anuja Tolia at anujatolia.com. Page 27: Swimsuit by Norma Kamali at normakamali.com; Necklace by Jacquie Aiche at jacquieaiche.com. Page 29: Swimsuit by Ola Vida at olavidaswimwear.com.

KANGAROO ISLAND

Pages 32–33: Swimsuit by TeenyB Bikini Couture at teenyb.com. Pages 34–35: Swimsuit by Amanda Louise Swimwear at amandalouiseswimwear.com. Pages 36–37: Swimsuit by Monica Hansen Beachwear at monicahansenbeachwear.com. Page 38: Swimsuit by Beach Bunny at beachbunny.com. Page 40: Swimsuit by Meshki at [\[.com.au\]\(http://meshki.com.au\). Page 41: Swimsuit by Monica Hansen Beachwear at \[monicahansenbeachwear.com\]\(http://monicahansenbeachwear.com\). Pages 42–43: Swimsuit by Ola Vida at \[olavidaswimwear.com\]\(http://olavidaswimwear.com\). Pages 44–45 \(*clockwise from left*\): Swimsuit by Frankies Bikinis at \[frankiesbikinis.com\]\(http://frankiesbikinis.com\); Swimsuit by Charmosa Swimwear by N Hall at \[charmosaswimwear.com\]\(http://charmosaswimwear.com\); Swimsuit by Rheya Swim at \[rheyaswim.com\]\(http://rheyaswim.com\); Swimsuit by Monica Hansen Beachwear at \[monicahansenbeachwear.com\]\(http://monicahansenbeachwear.com\). Page 46: Swimsuit by Andi Bagus at \[andi-bagus.com\]\(http://andi-bagus.com\). Page 47: Swimsuit by Andi Bagus at \[andi-bagus.com\]\(http://andi-bagus.com\). Page 48: Swimsuit by ViX Paula Hermannny at \[vixpaulahermannny.com\]\(http://vixpaulahermannny.com\); Earrings by Anuja Tolia at \[anujatolia.com\]\(http://anujatolia.com\). Page 51: Swimsuit by Swim Like A Mermaid at \[swimlikeamermaid.com\]\(http://swimlikeamermaid.com\). Page 52: Swimsuit by Lee + Lani at \[leeandlani.com\]\(http://leeandlani.com\). Page 53: Swimsuit by Oye Swimwear at \[oyeswimwear.com\]\(http://oyeswimwear.com\). Page 54: Swimsuit by Sommer Swim at \[sommerswim.com\]\(http://sommerswim.com\). Page 57: Swimsuit by Agua Bendita Swimwear at \[aguabendita.com\]\(http://aguabendita.com\). Page 58: Swimsuit by I.AM.GIA at \[iamgia.com\]\(http://iamgia.com\).](http://meshki</p></div><div data-bbox=)

STRONG SUIT

Pages 60–61: Swimsuit by Triangl at northamerica.triangl.com. Page 62: Swimsuit by Haus of Pinklemonaid at shophausofpinklemonaid.com. Page 63 (*clockwise from top left*): Swimsuit by Beach Bunny at beachbunny.com; Swimsuit by Lybethras at lybethras.com; Swimsuit by Aexae Swim at aexaeswim.com. Page 64: Swimsuit by Suboo at suboousa.com. Page 65: Swimsuit by Arrow & Eve at arrowandeve.com. Pages 66–67: Swimsuit by Haus of Pinklemonaid at shophausofpinklemonaid.com. Page 68 (*clockwise from top left*): Swimsuit by Cali Dreaming at cali-dreaming.com; Swimsuits by TeenyB Bikini Couture at teenyb.com (2). Page 69: Swimsuit by Aexae Swim at aexaeswim.com. Page 70: Swimsuit by Nirvanic Swim at nirvanicswim.com.

KENYA

Pages 74–75: Swimsuit by Frankies Bikinis at frankiesbikinis.com. Pages 76–77: Burkini by Micosuza at amazon.com. Page 78: Swimsuit by Nora Swimwear at noraswimwear.com; Body chain by Kiumbe Kulture at instagram.com/kiumbekulture. Page 79: Swimsuit by Meshki at [\[.com.au\]\(http://meshki.com.au\); Necklace by Adele Dejak at \[adeledejak.com\]\(http://adeledejak.com\). Page 80 \(*from top*\): Swimsuit by Ola Vida at \[olavidaswimwear.com\]\(http://olavidaswimwear.com\); Earrings by Adele Dejak at \[adeledejak.com\]\(http://adeledejak.com\); Swimsuit by Chloé Rose at \[chloeroseswimwear.com\]\(http://chloeroseswimwear.com\); Necklace by Jiamini at \[shopjiamini.com\]\(http://shopjiamini.com\). Page 81: Swimsuit by Maui Girl at \[maui-girl.com\]\(http://maui-girl.com\). Page 82: Bodysuit by Speerise at \[amazon.com\]\(http://amazon.com\); Hat and scarf by Gucci at \[net-a-porter.com\]\(http://net-a-porter.com\). Pages 84–85: Swimsuit by Meshki at \[meshki.com.au\]\(http://meshki.com.au\); Necklace by Epica Jewelry at \[instagram.com/epicajewellery\]\(http://instagram.com/epicajewellery\). Page 86: Swimsuit by Lee + Lani at \[leeandlani.com\]\(http://leeandlani.com\). Page 87: Swimsuit by Frankies Bikinis at \[frankiesbikinis.com\]\(http://frankiesbikinis.com\); Body chain by Kiumbe Kulture at \[instagram.com/kiumbekulture\]\(http://instagram.com/kiumbekulture\). Page 88–89: Swimsuit by Tavik at \[tavik.com\]\(http://tavik.com\); Jacket by Agua Bendita Swimwear at \[aguabendita.com\]\(http://aguabendita.com\). Page 90: Swimsuit by ViX Paula Hermannny at \[vixpaulahermannny.com\]\(http://vixpaulahermannny.com\). Page 93: Bodysuit by Speerise at \[amazon.com\]\(http://amazon.com\); Top by Yves Saint Laurent at \[cloakwardrobe.com\]\(http://cloakwardrobe.com\); Necklace by Adele Dejak at \[adeledejak.com\]\(http://adeledejak.com\); Belt by Lee + Lani x Marrin Costello at \[marrincostello.com\]\(http://marrincostello.com\). Page 94: Swimsuit by TeenyB Bikini Couture at \[teenyb.com\]\(http://teenyb.com\); Necklace by Jiamini at \[shopjiamini.com\]\(http://shopjiamini.com\). Page 95: Swimsuit by Bfyne at \[bfyne.com\]\(http://bfyne.com\). Page 96: Swimsuit by Iztali Swim at \[iztali.com\]\(http://iztali.com\). Page 97: Swimsuit by Iztali Swim at \[iztali.com\]\(http://iztali.com\); Top by Alt Swim at \[altswim.com\]\(http://altswim.com\). Page 98: Swimsuit by Bfyne at \[bfyne.com\]\(http://bfyne.com\).](http://meshki</p></div><div data-bbox=)

SQUAD GOALS

Pages 100–101: Swimsuit by Gigi C Bikinis at gigicbikinis.com. Page 102: Swimsuit by Haus of Pinklemonaid at shophausofpinklemonaid.com. Page 103: Swimsuit by Pistol Panties by Deborah Fleming at pistolpanties.com. Page 104: Swimsuit by Haus of Pinklemonaid at shophausofpinklemonaid.com. Page 105: Swimsuit by Indah at indahclothing.com. Page 106 (*from top, left to right*): Swimsuit by Cynababy Swimwear at cynababy.com; Swimsuit by TeenyB Bikini Couture at teenyb.com; Swimsuit by Monday Swimwear at mondayswimwear.com; Swimsuit by Peixoto Swim at peixotowear.com; Swimsuit by Arrow + Phoenix Swimwear at arrowandphoenix.com; Swimsuit by Lumahai Swim at lumahaiswimwear.com; Top by Jen's Pirate Booty at

jenspiratebooty.com; Swimsuit by Lauren Layne Swim at laurenlayneswim.com; Swimsuit by TeenyB Bikini Couture at teenyb.com; Swimsuit by Lybethras at lybethras.com. Page 107 (*from top*): Swimsuit by Pistol Panties by Deborah Fleming at pistolpanties.com; Swimsuit by FAE at fae.house; Swimsuit by Gigi C Bikinis at gigicbikinis.com. Page 108: Swimsuit by Monday Swimwear at mondayswimwear.com. Page 111: Swimsuit by Dolcessa at mydolcessa.com. Pages 112–113: Swimsuit by Indah at indahclothing.com. Page 114: Swimsuit by Beach Bunny at beachbunny.com.

MODEL SEARCH

Page 116–117 (*clockwise from top left*): Swimsuit by Cali Dreaming at cali-dreaming.com; Swimsuit by Meshki at meshki.com.au; Top by Grace Bijoux at gracebijoux.com.au; Swimsuit by Pink Queen at amazon.com; Swimsuit by milkbaby bikini by Cat Thordarson at milkbabybikini

.com; Swimsuit by TeenyB Bikini Couture at teenyb.com; Swimsuit by Beach Bunny at beachbunny.com. Pages 118–119: Swimsuit by Andi Bagus at andi-bagus.com. Page 120: Swimsuit by TeenyB Bikini Couture at teenyb.com; Dress by Grace Bijoux at gracebijoux.com.au. Page 121: Swimsuit by Myra Swim at myraswim.com. Page 122: Swimsuit by Ioiom at amazon.com. Page 123: Swimsuit by Toxic Sadie Swimwear at toxicsadie.com; Dress by Meshki at meshki.com.au. Pages 124–125: Swimsuit by I.AM.GIA at iamgia.com. Page 126: Swimsuit by Charmosa Swimwear by N Hall at charmosaswimwear.com.

COSTA RICA

Pages 128–129: Swimsuit by Isabella Rose at everythingbutwater.com. Pages 130–131: Swimsuit by Andi Bagus at andi-bagus.com. Page 132: Swimsuit by Haus of Pinklemonaid at shophausofpinklemonaid.com. Page 133: Swimsuit by TeenyB

Bikini Couture at teenyb.com. Page 134–135: Swimsuit by Yandy at yandy.com. Pages 136–137: Swimsuit by Skimpyswimwear LA at skimpyswim.com. Page 138: Swimsuit by Nike Swim at nikeswim.com. Page 139: Swimsuit by Gabriela Pires Beachwear at bygabrielapires.com. Page 140: Swimsuit by Bound by Bond-Eye at bond-eye.com. Page 141: Swimsuit by Meshki at meshki.com.au. Page 142: Swimsuit by Ola Vida at olavidaswimwear.com; Sunglasses by Quay Australia at quayaustralia.com. Page 143: Swimsuit by Prix at prixworkshop.com. Pages 144–145: Swimsuit by Tropic of C at tropicofc.com. Top by Natalia Fedner Metal Couture at nataliafedner.com. Page 146: Swimsuit by Skimpyswimwear LA at skimpyswim.com. Page 147: Swimsuit by Sidway Swim at sidway.com. Page 148: Swimsuit by Haus of Pinklemonaid at shophausofpinklemonaid.com. Page 149: Swimsuit by Tropic of C at tropicofc.com. Page 150: Swimsuit

by I.AM.GIA at iamgia.com. Page 151: Swimsuit by Andi Bagus at andi-bagus.com.

BAHAMAS

Pages 152–153: Swimsuit by Dolcessa at mydolcessa.com. Pages 154–155: Swimsuit by Tavik at tavik.com. Page 156: Swimsuit by Sauipe Swim at sauipe.com. Page 157: Swimsuit by Plumeria Swimwear at plumeriaswimwear.com; Body chain by Jacquie Aiche at jacquieaiche.com. Pages 158–159: Swimsuit by Sara Cristina Swimwear at saracristinaswimwear.com. Page 160: Swimsuit by Dolcessa at mydolcessa.com. Page 161: Swimsuit by TeenyB Bikini Couture at teenyb.com; Dress by Natalia Fedner Metal Couture at nataliafedner.com. Page 162: Swimsuit by Sinesia Karol at sinesiakarol.com; Sunglasses by Stella McCartney at net-a-porter.com.

LAST WORD

Page 166: Swimsuit by Ola Vida at olavidaswimwear.com.

ACCOMMODATIONS

COSTA RICA

Casa Chameleon at Las Catalinas, Las Catalinas, Costa Rica, 888-705-0274, casachameleonhotels.com.

GREAT EXUMA

Grand Isle Resort & Spa, Emerald Bay, Exuma, Bahamas, 242-358-5000, grandisleresort.com. Promotional consideration provided by The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism and Aviation, thebahamas.com.

KENYA

Hemingways Watamu, a member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World, Watamu, Kenya, 877-234-7033, slh.com. Hemingways Nairobi, a member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World, Nairobi, Kenya, 877-234-7033, slh.com. Ol Seki Hemingways Mara, Naboisho Conservancy, Maasai Mara, Kenya, +254-718-669-856, hemingways-collection.com/mara. Promotional consideration provided by Kenya Airways Ltd., +254-20-327-4747, kenya-airways.com. Promotional consideration provided by Hemingways Expeditions, +254-20-2295-000, hemingways-expeditions.com.

PARADISE ISLAND

The Cove at Atlantis, Paradise Island, The Bahamas, 242-363-3000, atlantisbahamas.com/rooms/thecoveatlantis. Promotional consideration provided by The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism and Aviation, thebahamas.com.

PUERTO VALLARTA

Hotel Boutique Casa Velas, Puerto Vallarta, 877-418-3011, hotelcasavelas.com. Promotional consideration provided by Puerto Vallarta Tourism Board, 888-384-6822, visitpuertovallarta.com.

ST. LUCIA

Marigot Bay Resort and Marina, Marigot Bay, St. Lucia, 877-384-8037, marigotbayresort.com. Promotional consideration provided by Saint Lucia Tourism Authority, 800-456-3984, stlucia.org.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

LifeTime Private Retreats, Kangaroo Island, South Australia, +61-8-8559-2248, life-time.com.au. Promotional consideration provided by Virgin Australia, 855-253-8021, virginaustralia.com. Promotional consideration provided by South Australian Tourism Commission, 323-871-1151, southaustralia.com.

PRODUCTION

Location production for Costa Rica, Great Exuma, Paradise Island, Puerto Vallarta, St. Lucia and South Australia by Cindi Blair Productions/Turks & Caicos Productions, 917-544-6977, cindiblairproductions.com. Location production for Costa Rica by Origen Escapes, +506-4702-1504, origenesescapes.com. Location production for Kenya by Baker Kent Production, +27-79-648-6137, bakerkent.com.



SPORTS ILLUSTRATED (ISSN 0038-822X) IS PUBLISHED BIWEEKLY WITH AN EXTRA ISSUE IN MAY BY TI GOTHAM INC., A WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF MEREDITH CORPORATION, PRINCIPAL OFFICE: 225 LIBERTY ST., NEW YORK, NY 10281-1008. PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY, AND ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. POSTMASTER: SEND ALL UAA TO CFS. (SEE DMM 5071.5.2); NON-POSTAL AND MILITARY FACILITIES: SEND ADDRESS CORRECTIONS TO SPORTS ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE P.O. BOX 37508, BOONE, IA 50037-0508. U.S. SUBSCRIBERS: IF THE POSTAL SERVICE ALERTS US THAT YOUR MAGAZINE IS UNDELIVERABLE, WE HAVE NO FURTHER OBLIGATION UNLESS WE RECEIVE A CORRECTED ADDRESS WITHIN TWO YEARS. CANADA POST PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT NO. 40110178. GST #888381621RT001YOUR BANK MAY PROVIDE UPDATES TO THE CARD INFORMATION WE HAVE ON FILE. YOU MAY OPT OUT OF THIS SERVICE AT ANY TIME. MAILING LIST: WE MAKE A PORTION OF OUR MAILING LIST AVAILABLE TO REPUTABLE FIRMS. IF YOU WOULD PREFER THAT WE NOT INCLUDE YOUR NAME, PLEASE CALL OR WRITE US. ©2019 TI GOTHAM INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT PERMISSION IS PROHIBITED. SPORTS ILLUSTRATED IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF TI GOTHAM INC. CUSTOMER SERVICE AND SUBSCRIPTIONS: FOR 24/7 SERVICE, PLEASE USE OUR WEBSITE: WWW.SI.COM/CUSTOMERSERVICE YOU CAN ALSO CALL 1-800-843-8463 OR WRITE TO SI AT P.O. BOX 37508, BOONE, IA 50037-0508.



Photograph by
YU TSAI

Swimsuit by
OLA VIDA
(\$180)

LAST WORD

SUNSET YEARS

[Slow down at 54? Not this icon, who showed that women of all ages can dazzle](#)

BY PAULINA PORIZKOVA

FOR THE LAST decade or so, I've had a recurring nightmare. I'm on a photo shoot for *SPORTS ILLUSTRATED* at my current age. The sun is setting on a beach, I'm in a bikini, pumped and ready to shoot, but am ignored in favor of much younger models. As the sun plunges below the horizon, so does my heart as I realize my age has rendered me essentially invisible.

Then a few months ago *SI* called to ask if I'd like to be one of the core "girls" in the upcoming issue. I'd be the oldest core girl. Ever.

I landed my first *SI* cover 35 years ago, and the trajectory of my career changed overnight. But these days, you'll most likely find me behind a desk, or more truthfully, behind the kitchen table, with crap reality TV on in the background as I write. I write fiction and nonfiction, and have been militant about ageism: I'm

deeply offended on behalf of all of us women who are rendered socially invisible once we look a certain age. Certainly, today's 50 is not yesterday's 50. While I am, at times, proud to look my age, when someone on social media calls me a wrinkled hag, I have to do a lot of slow breathing. So I had to wrestle with the question: how do I feel about being the *old* lady in *SI*? Do they really want me—or am I here because of what I represent?

I'm 54, I haven't "had work done" (yet), and now I'm being asked to climb back into a bikini when I'm basically the age my mother was the last time I did this, in 1992. But editor MJ Day—the power behind the Swimsuit Issue and the woman who has been responsible for broadening the idea of female beauty with gorgeous girls of all colors and sizes—decided she wanted me.

With only three weeks to prepare, I considered for a moment all the things I could do to make myself look younger. Then I settled for a facial, and the only work I did was working on accepting that I didn't look 25. Or 35. Or 45.

My acceptance took a rude hit in the Nairobi airport. After a 16-hour flight, we all looked the way people do after long flights, except for Haley, the other model traveling with me. At 25, she was exactly as beautiful as when we boarded. No bags under her eyes, no weird folds from sleeping on a sweater and no bed-head hair. That's when our airport guide, a man in his 60s, took a head count and announced, "One of you is missing." He shook a sheet of paper as if to somehow dislodge the missing person and stared right through me as he continued: "It says here there are *two* models. So, where is the other one?"

Aside from the obvious awkwardness everyone felt, and the sweet way they pretended that didn't just happen, once we did the fittings and I got to the beach with the crew, muscle memory kicked in, and it felt just like 30 years ago.

Then came the sunset.

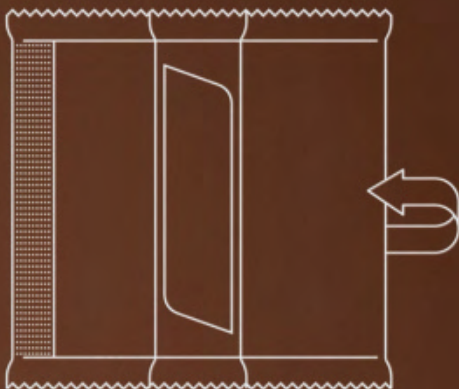
Back in the old days, the best bikinis were saved for that last 10 minutes of light. In a week's shoot, you could tell the favorites for a cover by how many sunsets they got. This time, I wasn't kidding myself; I knew I wasn't in the running for a cover. Still, as we got ready for my one sunset, MJ handed me my favorite bikini and photographer Yu Tsai helped me to stand on a tree branch that overlooked the mangrove bay. We had very little time in which to capture the magic. As I balanced myself on the tree, sucking in my stomach for all I was worth, the sun snowballed into a grey cloud. It wasn't exactly a sunset, but we got a shot.

In my nightmare I was upset because I was bypassed because of my age. Now, I realized it was all about just being invited. By hiring me, MJ had cracked open the door to another possibility: the visible mature woman. Or, let's just say: the hot old lady. □

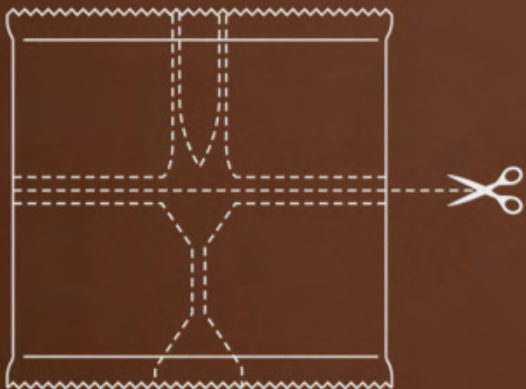
YOU'D HAVE TO BE REALLY HUNGRY TO MAKE YOUR OWN #SISWIM #SNIKINI AND POST IT ONLINE. BUT HEY, IF THAT'S YOUR THING, HERE YOU GO.



STEP 1



STEP 2



STEP 3



STEP 4





**IF YOU BOUGHT THIS MAGAZINE FOR THE
SNICKERS BIKINI, YOU'RE PROBABLY HUNGRY.**

